



League Lines

SUMMER 2010

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Save the date:

- *Birthday Bash/
Membership Event
Wednesday, September
29, 7:00 p.m.
Watch for your invitation
in the mail!*

.....
*"The League and its
150,000 grassroots sup-
porters will continue to
raise our voices in the
fight for climate change
reform, campaign finance
reform, voter education
and election reform. Let's
go out there and get in the
way!"*

—Elizabeth MacNamara,
LWVUS President

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LWVLC Annual
Meeting Recap

Letters from the Co-Presidents, Past and Present

WHAT AN active year it has been! There have been excellent opportunities to educate ourselves on issues (health care) and candidates, and there was even time for a stimulating book review on Francis Perkins.

Our activities this spring required grassroots effort as part of a larger State League initiative. Great effort was made to get the Fair Map Amendment onto the state ballot. Although the number of signatures collected fell short of the number required, the effort was outstanding, especially locally. The work brought to the fore new depths of thought and nuance relative to defining fair representation. This will serve us not only in monitoring state redistricting efforts, but also in providing broader perspective as we monitor election systems locally.

As we pass the co-president baton on to Jane Partridge and Mary Mathews, we

would like to thank the board for all of their hard work. It has been a privilege working together. And thank you to all of the membership for your efforts and support.

— Lisa Dietrich and
Cindy Morehead



THE YEAR 2010 is a special year to celebrate: it marks the 90th birthday of the LWV and of women's suffrage. We shall celebrate Carrie Chapman Catt and all of the women before us who have worked to inform voters of the issues, conduct forums to hear the candidates, and facilitate the voting process. And let us not forget, some of us have marched as well.

We came back from the LWVUS convention in At-

lanta in June energized and ready to make this coming year an active one. We were happy to hear that membership has increased 5%. And we ask each of you to contribute in some way, large or small. We need you!

Plans for this coming year already are well under way. There will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer, to learn, to advocate, and to have fun! We hope that you will join us as much as possible.

If you would like to help register voters this August and September, Jan Schnobrich has scheduled times for us to work at the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff libraries as well as Lake Forest Place and Lake Forest Senior Center. There also are registrar opportunities for six different locations in North Chicago, Waukegan, and Zion. Give Jan a call for this very important League activity.

On September 29 we will be having a Birthday Bash for

Letters from the Co-Presidents (continued)

the League. Help us celebrate the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters. Come for the fellowship, surprise entertainment, and desserts! The party will be held at the home of Tracy Burns. Watch for your invitation, and in the meantime, mark your calendar and save the date.

With the elections in November, the LWV has a crucial community role and members have many opportunities to be involved and be informed. A 10th Congressional Candidates' Forum will be held at Glenbrook South in Glenview on September 30, 2010. In addition, we

will produce a Candidates' Forum for the contested elections in our area. With so much at stake, these should be very interesting races. Don't miss the forums in person. Consider even volunteering your services.

This coming year, we will be making our voice heard as the affordable housing issue is negotiated by the City of Lake Forest. We are planning a program on the League's position, including the history of the issue, our involvement with affordable housing in the area over several years, and why we have adopted our position.

Education precedes action. The League, along with the American Association of University Women (AAUW), hosts Great Decisions, where we learn about and discuss many important public policy issues of global import. Meetings are the second Friday of each month. Joining Great Decisions is an excellent way to stay connected. Contact Pat Rounsaville at 847-295-3916 for spe-

Please stay tuned and involved. And be sure to attend League's 90th birthday party on September 29!

— Jane Partridge and Mary Mathews

Voter Registration Services

AS OF APRIL 20, 2010 the LWV-LF/LB has ten additional voter registrars! Thanks are due to Janice Schnobrich's leadership and persistent efforts in encouraging members to become registrars and get training.

You will see the additional registrars during the late summer and early fall push registering voters at the libraries in Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, and North Chicago. Our registrars also serve voters at Lake Forest Place. LWV-LF/LB registrars will single-handedly staff student school registration periods for North Chicago and Waukegan high

schools. LWV-LF/LB will assist the LWVLC in registering voters at Warren Township High School. And, if needed, the registrars will assist any efforts from the Lake County Clerk's Office in registering voters (a possible location would be the College of Lake County).

You may notice that Lake Forest High School is not on the list of places we will be registering voters. This is because of an exciting initiative and followed by the legwork to ensure that there are staff members and age-qualified high school students certified in voter registration available at the high school. Now,

Lake Forest High School students may be registered to vote (once they meet the age requirement) by one of the two in-house certified staff members. Outreach and follow-up work continue in each of Lake County's high schools to ensure this kind of voter registration access to all age-qualified Lake County high school students.

By the way, speaking of age qualification, did you know that anyone who will be 18 by the time of the next election is eligible to register now?

WE'VE MOVED!

We are still the League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area. And our business is still to monitor and influence issues in the community. What has changed is our mailing address. Please send any notices or correspondence to us at LWV-LF/LB, P.O. Box 645, Lake Forest, IL 60045. Our website address remains the same! Visit us at www.lwv-ill.org.

A Note From the LWVIL Nominating Committee

ACCORDING TO the LWVIL By-laws, "At least one year prior to convention, the chair of the nominating committee shall request suggestions for nominations through the president of each local League and ILO and the chairs of MAL units. Suggestions for nominations by local Leagues shall be sent to the

chair of the nominating committee. Any LWVIL member may also submit suggestions for nominations."

The Nominating Committee requests your suggestions for nominations for the 2011 LWVIL Board. Elections will be held in June 2011, and yes, it is actually time to start

thinking of such things!

If you have someone or several people in mind—or if you would like to nominate yourself—please email the chair, Janet Kitulaus, info@lwvil.org, and request a Nominee Recommendation Form. Any LWVIL member may submit suggestions for nominations.

Remembering Virginia Fiester Frederick



VIRGINIA Fiester Frederick, who passed away this June, was an honorary member of LWV-LF/LB and

a past president of the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest be-

fore the LWV of Lake Forest and the LWV of Lake Bluff merged. Virginia was the first woman elected to the Lake Forest City Council, on which she served from 1974 to 1979. Following her term on the City Council, she was elected and sworn in as an Illinois legislator, an office she continued to hold from 1979 to 1994.

The 1980s were a time when

women were gaining ground in political representation. (Consider this: in 1984, there was no women's bathroom conveniently located to the House floor in Springfield.) Virginia was part of this growing number of female state legislators. Leaguers will remember Virginia, often seen locally with Grace Mary Stern, for their lively and informative across-the-aisle legislative up-

Report on the National Convention

By Jane Partridge

THE 2010 LWVUS Convention was especially informative and productive. Mary Wilson, a lawyer from New Mexico, has been an outstanding president for the last four years. Elizabeth Scott, who has been first VP, is the new president. Several past presidents were in attendance. It was interesting and fun to hear of past presidents' experiences as president. One recounted that she, sitting next to the President of the United States, over-

heard an aide whispering to the President, "Don't bring up that proposal, because these women are smart."

Among the programs was an address by Kathleen Sibelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services. In a speech by commentator and author of "You've Come a Long Way Maybe," Leslie Sanchez reminded us that only 17% of Congress members are women and that we must work to reclaim civility in public office. There was an inspir-

ing PowerPoint presentation of the history of the League and the women who have made that his-

The approval of a study to focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, as well as the ten other motions adopted, shows that the national League is in tune with the important issues in America. Some of these adopted motions included the role of privatization; the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services, and

Report on the National Convention (continued)

assets to the private sector; equal rights for all under state and federal law, which includes marriage equality; Medicare for all; lifting travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba; changing rules to limit the filibuster in the Senate; and support of the resolution to support safe

drilling and mining for energy resources. The League has two full-time lobbyists and over 35 volunteers who live in the D.C. area and who are trained to explain our positions to Senators and House mem-

Mary Mathews and I came home energized and ready for a productive year. The national League has increased membership by 5%, and we hope to do better. With your help, we can make a difference in educating and helping to make democracy work.

LWV-LF/LB Annual Meeting Roundup

THIS YEAR'S annual meeting was held at the home of Cynthia Morehead. The lovely setting was the perfect backdrop for a casual and comfortable dinner before the business meeting. In attendance were well over the required quorum for decision making. Lisa Dietrich ran the meeting. Joan Kaltsas served as parliamentarian. Our acting secretary, Marilyn Shineflug, took minutes to be reviewed and approved by Carol Gilbert and Alice Sievert. A new board was approved; the annual budget was pored over, modified slightly, and approved; and the LWV-LF/LB's program was adopted for the next year.

You will want to know about these important decisions that were made at the meeting:

- A motion was passed to increase the budget line item for the scholarship fund with the intention of awarding it to a high school student interested in civic affairs. A committee was formed to determine details of the scholarship for 2011.
- The action items approved for the following year are:
 1. School funding reform
 2. State election laws
 3. International relations
 4. Environmental protection
 5. Affordable housing

Affordable housing is a new action item this year, added with the view of making it a priority to influence

the housing that Lake Forest is proposing.

Two directives to the board centered around elections. (Directives are issues made to the board; they are not member-approved initiatives.) One proposal was made to consider the "Citizens First Amendment" as an alternative to the Fair Map Amendment. The other proposal is to evaluate our own League's "Nominating Systems and Procedures" position. The concern expressed at the annual meeting is whether or not the position gives proper consideration to geographical representation and population distribution in local municipal elec-

Please Fill Out the League Survey

ON THE NEXT page you'll see a survey that asks about your League interests and involvement. Please take the time to fill it out and send it in. We need to hear from each and every one of our members about what we're doing right, what

else we could or should be doing, and—most importantly—how you can help us do it.

Our League members are very talented—and busy—women. We hope to take advantage of the abilities within our group to provide the

kind of services our members think are important for our community. And by sharing the work, we can avoid overburdening our already-involved core of volunteers. Thank you for sharing your ideas—and your time—with us!

League of Women Voters—Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Survey

Name: _____ phone _____

What activities would you like the League to perform? Please check all that apply.

- Register voters _____ Hold candidate forums _____ Observe local government meetings _____
- Provide educational programs to the public such as: affordable housing _____
campaign finance reform _____ climate change _____ food _____ health care _____
water _____ other _____
- Advocate for existing local, state, and national positions such as: education _____
environment _____ fiscal policy _____ immigration _____ social _____
other _____
- Study an issue _____ what issue(s)? _____

How would you like to volunteer? One time _____ Ongoing _____

- Help plan event _____ Host membership event at home/club _____ Help at public program _____
- Serve on: program/advocacy planning committee _____
membership/development planning committee _____
voter service/candidate forum committee _____ voter registration _____
- Help with State Convention, June 2011 in Skokie _____
- Serve on Board _____
- Attend city council/village board meetings _____ (alternate with another person) _____
- Write press releases _____ Write letters to the editor _____ Write/call legislators _____
- Publish newsletter _____ Webmaster _____ Twitter Facebook etc. _____ Take digital pictures/videotape _____
- Liaison to other League: Lake County _____ Lake Michigan _____
- Administrative functions _____
- Preferred time to attend meetings events: day _____ evening _____ weekends _____

I am happy to be a member but currently cannot make additional commitments. _____

How can we improve the League? _____

Do you have other interests or talents that could be helpful to the League? _____

LWVLC Annual Meeting and Birthday Luncheon Recap

LWV-LAKE COUNTY succeeded in mixing business with pleasure! The League held a birthday party along with its annual meeting on Saturday, June 19. More than 30 members and guests celebrated the 40th birthday in style at South Gate Cafe in Lake Forest. The event brought together old friends who hadn't seen each other in years. Long-time volunteers from the Kids First Health Fair were reunited. Previous past presidents had a chance to catch up. Every current and past local league in Lake County was represented. Some local elected officials also attended. The food was delicious (especially the desserts) and the room was lovely, with gorgeous floral arrangements provided by Linda Bartmes.

Rita Kirby presided and kept the business meeting short. Due to Lake County League's biennial schedule, only Program needed to be adopted. Current positions were retained. The County League will continue to register voters (as always, coordinated by Jo-An Sabonjian) and provide candidate forums. Lake County League Board members will continue to be active in criminal justice, transportation and the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan, and the Lake County Women's Coalition. Other actions may develop from State and National plans for this upcoming year.

The Lake County League responded to two of State's initiatives last year. The County League was active in promoting the Census in a number of towns; especially notable were Judy Johnston's efforts in Highwood. Also, League members obtained petition signatures for the

Fair Map Amendment. Sally Zeit obtained over 200 signatures by herself!



Corinne Wood speaking at the luncheon.

Last year for the primary, the LWV-Lake County hosted three forums in coalition with a number of organizations coordinated by Mary Mathews. Additionally, Diane Sanderson developed an important new partnership with Grayslake High School. The forums covered six races at three levels of government. There also was a short program about judicial races in Lake County. The forums were held in Grayslake, Vernon Hills, and North Chicago. (We go where there is a need!)

The County League also co-sponsored with LWV-Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area the program "Health Care: How to Cure the Chronic Crisis." This very successful program was videotaped and shown on public access TV throughout the northern suburbs and online.

As part of the business meeting, the Partridge reported the recent activities at the National Convention in Atlanta. Membership is up and so is the enthusiasm. There are ample opportunities to be involved.

After the business meeting, the fun began with Rosemary Heilemann leading the way. Rosemary read the Proclamation that the Lake County Board had awarded LWV-Lake County for its 40 years of service to the county. A token of appreciation was given to past presidents Phyllis Albrecht, Gail Brown, Joan Kaltsas, Barbara Volin, and Sally Zeit for their hard work and leadership. Then, Joan Kaltsas addressed the audience with an amusing history of the Lake County League from her perspective as a past president.

Next, guest speaker Corinne Wood provided insight into the political situations of Chicago and Illinois. Corinne is a longtime League member. As the former Lt. Governor and a State Representative, she has a wealth of experience. One of her many current activities is sitting on the Board of Chicago Metropolis 2020, a coalition partner of the State League. Corinne spoke not only about the status of Metropolis 2020 but also about a sister organization, Change Illinois! Corinne, along with Paula Lawson, LWV-IL, serves on the Steering Committee of Change Illinois! This organization works for campaign finance reform and redistricting reform. Corinne later expressed her pleasure in visiting with so many women who were dedicated to action and issues.

With that in mind, LWV-Lake County will continue to encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

P.O. Box 645
Lake Forest, IL 60045



Always at your fingertips!

Want to share the
local League with a friend?

Share our website:
www.LWV-LFLB.org

My League To-Do List

Clip out and put where you'll see it!

- ☐ Fill in and return the LWV survey *today*
- ☐ Mark my calendar for September 29, 7:00, League Birthday Bash
- ☐ Invite a friend to the September 29 birthday party
- ☐ Call Jan about registering voters
- ☐ Let Ann H. and Ann G. know how I can help with candidate forums
- ☐ Tell Jane and Mary how I want to be involved with the affordable housing issue in Lake Forest
- ☐ Contact Pat to sign up for Great Decisions

LWV-LF/LB Board of Directors

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Mary Mathews	Co-President
Ann Hamlin	Vice President, Voter Service
Ann Grant	Vice President, Voter Service
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League Lines

WINTER 2010

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Letter from the Co-Presidents

Save the dates:

- LWV-LF/LB Annual Meeting, May 20
- LWV National Convention, Atlanta, Georgia, June 11-15

Board meetings:

- Second Monday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at Gorton Community Center. Members welcome!

By Lisa Dietrich and
Cindy Morehead

This year presents many challenges for our nation, our state, and our local League of Women Voters. There are several opportunities for you to be informed, involved, and making a difference. First is the 2010 census—important because our state will lose both representatives in the House and money from the federal government if we do not count every resident in the state. We urge you to come to the meeting on February 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the Lake Bluff Park District building, when Mary Schaafsma, a member of the state LWV staff, will explain why the census is important and how we can help.

Also at this meeting we plan to kick off our local campaign for the Illinois Fair Map Amendment. We are joining Leagues all over Illinois in collecting signatures on petitions to get this "Fair Map Amendment" on the November 2010 ballot. It is

a formidable job, as we need at least 500,000 signatures from registered voters in the state by the middle of April.

What is this amendment and why do we need it? For the past three decades Illinois legislators have gerrymandered districts so that their reelection is ensured. In the 630 general election contests since 2001, there were 547 in which an incumbent was seeking reelection. Only 11 incumbents lost; 98% were reelected! Under the existing redistricting procedures, legislators draw district lines behind closed doors. Which party gets to draw is decided by pulling a name out of a hat. Districts are drawn to protect incumbents. Districts are drawn to protect friends and punish enemies. Power is entrenched in the hands of a few, and it is almost impossible to change who is in power through the vote.

The solution is a new, fair process for redistricting—a process whereby legislators do not draw maps, but an

independent commission does. Specific criteria must be used to draw maps to protect minority voting rights and to eliminate partisan advantage. Maps should be drawn in an open and transparent process, with public input.



Since the legislature will not change the system, the citizens must. We urge every League member to get at least three signatures on a petition. To learn more, you can visit www.ilfairmap.com. Please call Cindy Morehead (847-295-6470) if you would like to collect signatures for a fair and transparent redistricting process.

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Letter from the Co-Presidents (continued)

tricting process, and/or come to the meeting on February 25th.

At the local level, the issue of affordable housing in Lake Forest is seeing renewed activity. There is a proposal for new construction near the west Lake Forest train station. Follow the developments and share your support for the proposed affordable rental units with your alderman if you live in Lake Forest.

On a lighter note: we have two fun and educational programs coming soon. On Saturday, March 6, the Leagues on the North Shore will celebrate Women's History Month with a luncheon at the Glen Club, 2901 W. Lake Ave., Glenview. The guest speaker is Elizabeth Brackett, correspondent and substitute host of "Chicago Tonight" and author of the book, *Pay to Play: How Rod Blagojevich Turned Political Corrup-*

tion into a National Sideshow. Please return the enclosed reservation form (see page 9) if you wish to attend.

In April our own LWV member and program chair, Jane Partridge, will present a review of the recently published biography of Francis Perkins; this will be on April 22, 2010, at the LF/LB Senior Center. We look forward to seeing many of you at these two interesting programs.

Upcoming Programs

2010 Census and Its Aftermath: Redistricting

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Lake Bluff Park District
300 W. Washington Ave. (at Blair Park, just west of Green Bay Road, north of IL Route 176)

Speaker: Mary Schaafsma, LWVIL Coordinator for the 2010 Census

Come and review why counting everyone who is living in Illinois this April 1st is critical to keep the state from losing one or two U.S. Representatives to Congress and to get federal money for schools, medical services, and many other much-needed services. The program will also address the importance of redistricting, a process that now fosters gerrymandering and partisan politics. Find out how you can change the process by getting a redistricting amendment on the ballot for next November.

Women in Journalism

Date: Saturday, March 6, 2010

Time: 11:45 a.m. Reception • 12:15 p.m. Luncheon • 1:00 p.m. Speaker

Location: The Glen Club, 2901 W. Lake Ave., Glenview
Speaker: Elizabeth Brackett

Elizabeth Brackett is a correspondent and substitute host of "Chicago Tonight" and, since 1984, a correspondent covering politics and urban problems for PBS' "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer." She received a Peabody Award for her coverage of the 1988 presidential campaign, two Midwest Emmy Awards, and two Peter Lisagor Awards for Business Journalism. She became a first-time author in 2009 with her book, *Pay to Play: How Rod Blagojevich Turned Political Corruption into a National Sideshow*. Cost is \$38. RSVP by March 1 with the form on page 9. For more information call 847-866-7844 (LWV of Evanston voicemail).

Book Review of Frances Perkins, the Woman Behind the New Deal

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: LF/LB Senior Center, Grove Cultural Campus, 100 E. Old Mill Rd., Lake Forest
Speaker: Jane Partridge, LWV-LF/LB

Kirstin Downey's *Frances Perkins, the Woman Behind the New Deal*, which is coming out in paperback February 23rd, reveals to what extent Frances Perkins was the moral conscience behind F.D.R.'s New Deal. Perkins was an amazing woman in both her personal and her public life. The first woman to be on a President's cabinet, she served as F.D.R.'s Secretary of Labor for 13 years. Jane will also discuss Perkins' connections to Lake Forest and to Jane Addams. You won't want to miss this introduction to a fascinating woman.

Action: Fair Map Amendment

By Mary Matheus

WE NEED YOU! Not happy with Illinois government?
Sign the petition.

LWVIL seeks to reform the Illinois political process by changing the way the legislative map is drawn. Every 10 years after the census count is completed, the state's legislative districts are redrawn. Currently, party leaders create the district map. District lines are drawn to protect incumbents and prevent competitive races. We can change that by demanding a system where the districts are drawn fairly, and voters will choose the candidates they want, not the other way around.

To make this change, the League is

working with a coalition of organizations to amend the Illinois constitution. The Fair Map Amendment has the map drawn by an independent commission rather than party leaders. The League is circulating petitions to get a referendum for the proposed amendment on the November ballot. LWVIL and its partners plan to have 500,000 signatures from throughout the state by April.

LWV-LF/LB plans to provide 1,500 of these signatures. Board members will be calling to ask for your signature on a petition. Any additional help you can provide in meeting the goal by passing petitions in your neighborhood or with friends will be appreciated. Petitions and more information will be provided at the

program on February 25 at the Lake Bluff Park District at 7:00 p.m. (see page 2). Please attend.

Other organizations in Lake County will be participating. Lake County United plans to collect over 10,000 signatures. Many houses of worship already have signed up to help. For more information, see the state League's website (www.lwvil.org) or the website for the Illinois Fair Map Amendment (www.ilfairmap.com).

With a little help from our friends, we can change this "business as usual" system. Be a part of this important voter initiative. Come to the February 25th program or contact Cindy Morehead (847-295-6470).

Action: Settler's Green—Affordable Housing in Lake Forest!

By Kitty Cole

The Lake Forest City Council is proposing an affordable housing development on the west side of Lake Forest, on city-owned property at the northwest corner of Telegraph and Everett Roads, across from the west Lake Forest train station. It is a development of 16 units (in eight duplex buildings) to be offered at affordable rents to families, including seniors, who are residents of Lake Forest or working in our town.

The units are being developed by the Lake County Residential Development Corporation (LCRDC), a

not-for-profit developer, and the DeBruler Company, a well-established developer of affordable housing in Lake County. They will be managed by the DeBruler Company, which has a long track record in housing management.

The units were designed by Diana Melichar's firm, which has designed some of the most attractive homes in Lake Forest that have sold in the last few years. The buildings are designed with the residential character of a large home and are English Arts and Crafts in proportion, ornamentation, and building shape and form. They will be constructed of

high-quality materials for compatibility with the architectural style as well as durability and longevity.

The homes will be ideal for people who live and work in the community. A market study completed for the development in March 2009 revealed a large market for these homes. Eligibility for residency will be based on a percentage of a family's median income, which is roughly \$35,000 for a family of two and up to \$50,000 for larger families.

Because of the anticipated demand, people who already live in the community and those working in the

Action—Settler's Green (continued)

community will be given priority for renting the homes.

The LWV-LF/LB should be proud of this culmination of their efforts to promote equitable housing opportunities for our citizens. We have been observing and have been involved in the development of the affordable housing plan for Lake Forest and have officially supported affordable housing in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff.

There is, however, opposition to this development, and we need to speak up. I am asking you to support this initiative. The development is extremely attractive, appropriate for the site, and one that is desperately needed in our community. We need League members to show up and speak at the following meetings:

- Building Review Board, March 3, 6:30 p.m.

- Plan Commission, March 10, 6:30 p.m. (the most important one!)
- April City Council Meeting, April 6 or April 20 (watch the calendar!)

Ultimately the Lake Forest City Council will decide. Therefore, please call your aldermen to express your support. For more information, call Jane Partridge (847-234-1247) or Kitty Cole (847-735-0418).

Report on Illinois Issues Briefing, February 6, 2010

Four of our members—Cindy Morehead, Jane Partridge, Liz Bradner, and Carol Gilbert—attended the Issues Briefing presented by the LWVIL at the University Center in Chicago. The morning session included a discussion of redistricting and how we can ensure that the lines are drawn fairly, as well as a presentation on Illinois' fiscal crisis. In the afternoon we attended workshops on the state budget, the Fair Map Amendment, and term limits.

Redistricting

By Cindy Morehead

The three lawyers who explained the redistricting process and the proposed Fair Map Amendment (sponsored by the League and others such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Farm Bureau) were all excellent. Justin Levitt explained why the Fair Map Amendment is so important—above all, to ensure voter choice. In the last election,

40% of the state house districts and 50% of the state senate districts had no major party challengers. Legislative leaders have redrawn the lines to eliminate challengers or sometimes to eliminate incumbents who are too independent. In effect, the legislators are choosing their voters instead of voters choosing their legislators.

Tom Geoghegan talked about another possible way to change the system through a lawsuit he hopes to bring to the Illinois Supreme Court. He said that the gerrymandering of district lines with the intent to create safe seats violates the First Amendment clause protecting free speech. A safe seat limits communication from the other side in a debate or election and effectively insulates a legislator from speech he or she does not like. Past cases (*New York Times v. Sullivan*) have forbidden the passage of laws for such purpose.

Representative Mike Fortner presented his insights into the actual process of redrawing the districts in the state of Ohio. In a redistricting competition, using a secure server at the University of Ohio and computer software that incorporated four criteria—compactness, competitiveness, contiguity, and population equality—he and 100 others attempted to redraw the 2001 map in a fairer manner. The existing map had 13 Republican districts and five Democratic districts. The map he drew, which won the competition, had nine Republican districts, eight Democratic districts, and one even district.

Term Limits/Recall

By Carol Gilbert

Paula Lawson, LWVIL President for four years and perennial student of good government, led a discussion addressing two bills in the Illinois legislature. HJRCA31, the

Report on Illinois issues Briefing (continued)

Constitutional Initiative to Recall the Governor, has passed the assembly and will be on the November 2010 ballot. SJRCA25, which proposes to limit terms for legislative leaders, is pending.

Recall is an active subject, likely made popular by the charge of malfeasance against our former governor. Recall of a governor has been used successfully only once, ever, in 2003 when voters in California replaced incumbent Democratic Gray Davis with Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger. Eighteen states permit recall of state officials. Twice as many, 36, allow recall of local officials. In eight states specific grounds are not required. Recall is a political process requiring a voter petition and subsequent vote.

State Senator Michael Noland (D-22, Elgin), who is a sponsor of the recall bill, entertained us with his comment on term limits: "I was in favor of term limits until I got elected." His tongue-in-cheek remark was quickly followed with "I

Kennedy was effective for 40 years, but Mike Madigan could be described as too effective." The pro-

cesses leaders' tenure only the positions affected are the speaker the House, President of the Senate,

the term limit debate. The pro argument says that term limits can increase the competition for an office, reduce the number of professional politicians (which voters like), reduce the cost of campaigns, and create opportunity for minorities.

FUN COMMENTS OVERHEARD AT ISSUES BRIEFING:

- "ELECTING THE [HOUSE AND SENATE] LEADERS IS SOMEWHAT AKIN TO ELECTING THE POPE BUT WITHOUT THE SMOKE OUT OF THE CHIMNEY"
- "STROM THURMOND WAS THE SUSAN LUCCI OF THE SENATE"
- "THERE ARE 6000 BILLS A YEAR IN SPRINGFIELD...A LEGISLATOR LOOKS AT THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LOBBYISTS AND THE LEAGUE. EVEN IF THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP WE WANT, WE DO NEED LEADERSHIP"

WHICH ONE DO YOU BELIEVE?

- "THE TERM LIMIT IS WHEN YOU'RE VOTED OUT"

The term argument charges that a free-for-all election will occur every

will just change bodies (e.g., from house to senate, politicians keep

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position (adopted 1979, LWVIL Convention) supports amendments to achieve merit selection of judges, including recall (judges are elected in Illinois). Regarding term limits, the state League concurred with the national League's opposition to term limits for the U.S. Congress, and extended that opposition to term limits for state legislators at the 1993 LWVIL Convention.

Illinois Budget; Fiscal Crisis

By Elizabeth Bradner

Illinois will have a \$13.8 billion budget deficit in FY11 unless a combination of revenue increases, spending cuts, and additional borrowing are passed by the General Assembly. Years of borrowing and gimmick revenue increases such as the lottery produced a crisis before the recession, but now the loss of tax revenue due to the recession has produced a "train wreck" that both political parties recognize must be resolved. This year human services were cut by 15%, back bills of \$4 billion were unpaid, pay and services were cut, and furloughs, layoffs, and additional borrowing were implemented. The pension system was underfunded. One-time federal

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LMLWV Focuses on Invasive Species, Water Quality

Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden, LMLWV Liaison, procured this report, written by Henrietta Saunders, alternate board member for the LWVIL, from the recent quarterly meeting to share with our League.

The attendance at the LMLWV quarterly board meeting on January 23, 2010, was broad-based, with members coming in from all four Lake Michigan states, one woman from as far as Traverse City.

Our goal was to follow up on the Annual Meeting held last fall, prioritizing the program goals that were ratified by the whole group. We decided that our two top priority areas will be addressing the problems caused by invasive species, and improving and maintaining overall water quality in the lake. We will do this by continuing

our agenda of education and participating in the Healing Our Waters Coalition (www.healthylakes.org).

The current situation with Asian carp at the door of the Great Lakes

ecosystem is the urgent issue. To see a short video on carp, go to www.asiancarp.org/BillDance.asp.

Our board passed a resolution to ask LWVUS if we can lobby on behalf of recent federal carp legislation. We need to get permission

from the state Leagues and then the LWVUS in order to do this, but everyone on the board, as individuals, would like to see it pass. The legislation is described below:

U.S. Representative Dave Camp introduced House Bill 4472 and Senator Stabenow introduced Senate Bill 2946 in Congress this past week. Both bills direct the Secretary of the Army Corps of Engineers to construct additional barriers and to temporarily close the locks between the Chicago waterway and Lake Michigan to prevent Asian Carp from invading our Great Lakes and destroying our \$7 billion fishery.

For further information and for the fall newsletter of the LMLWV, please go to our website: www.lmilo.org.

Candidate Forums Held for the Primaries

In January 2010, the League of Women Voters of Lake County hosted three successful candidate forums covering six races at three levels of government (federal, state, and county) with a variety of co-sponsoring organizations. The locations also were varied: Grayslake, North Chicago, and Vernon Hills. Our adaptability keeps our League members busy!

On Sunday, January 10, 2010, the League of Women Voters of Lake County, the *Daily Herald*, and Grayslake Community High School District 127 hosted a forum for can-

didates running for the 8th Congressional District and for 62nd District State Representative. All six Republican candidates—Dirk Beveridge, John Dawson, Christopher Geissler, Maria Rodriguez, Gregory Jacobs, and Joe Walsh—participated. Democratic write-in candidate Jonathan Farnick was expected to attend, but he had car trouble. Melissa Bean, the Democratic incumbent, declined participating in any forums in this period as she was uncontested on the ballot.

For the 62nd State Representative race, both Republican candidates,

Sandy Cole (incumbent) and Paul Mitchell, attended. The Democratic candidate, Rich Voltair, was unopposed in the primary and was not invited.

In November, Diane Sanderson (LWV-LF/LB) had invited the Grayslake School District to co-sponsor the event. The social studies teachers and high school administrators were excited about this learning experience for their Advanced Placement Government and Honors students. Four students acted as co-moderators with Joan Kaitzas (LWV-LF/LB). Many stu-

Candidate Forums Held for the Primaries (continued)

dents volunteered to make this a very successful forum. The auditorium was filled with students, parents, teachers, and residents. Besides Diane and Joan, other League volunteers for this forum were Rosemary Heilemann (LWV-DF) and Mary Mathews (LWV-LF/LB).

On Sunday, January 17, 2010, the League and co-sponsor the *Daily Herald* held a forum at the Laschen Community Center in Vernon Hills.

A welcome statement was given by Pete Nenni, Lake County Editor of the *Daily Herald*. All candidates for 59th District State Representative were in attendance. The Democratic candidates were Carol Sente and Elliott Hartstein. The Republican candidates were Dan Sugrue, Mohan Manian, and Cynthia R. Hebda. Once again, Joan Kaltsas (LWV-LF/LB) moderated.



Joan Kaltsas moderating the forum in Vernon Hills.

In addition, for the first time judicial candidates were invited to the forum to present statements. The Honorable Margaret Mullen opened this segment of the forum by giving a brief presentation on the courts in Lake County and qualities to con-

sider when voting for judges. Six candidates for judgeships gave brief statements on their qualifications and why they were seeking the office. Republican candidates for the Appellate Court, Second District, were Ann B. Jorgensen and Mary S. Schostok. Democratic candidates for 19th Circuit, 4th Subcircuit, were Mark Levitt, Christopher M. Kennedy, Jeremy Cowen Schwartz, and Dwayne Douglas. Wallace B. Dunn, Republican candidate for the 4th Subcircuit, also attended but did not speak, as he is uncontested in the primary.

The Village of Vernon Hills videotaped the forum and showed the program until Election Day on its public access channel. Buffalo Grove, Lincolnshire, and Lake Forest also showed the program on their public access channels.

Thanks go to the following League members for the success of this forum:

- Linda Bartmes (LWV-LF/LB)
- Jo-An Sabonjian (LWV-LF/LB)
- Judy Johnston (LWV-HP)
- Rosemary Heilemann (LWV-DF)
- Sally Zeit (LWV-LF/LB)
- Jane Partridge (LWV-LF/LB)
- Rita Kirby (LWV-DF)
- Mary Mathews (LWV-LF/LB)

Many thanks also go to Carol Gilbert for sending out emails and Nicki Snoblin for posting the video on the LWV-LF/LB website.

On Sunday, January 24th, the third forum was held at the Green-

belt Cultural Center in North Chicago. The races were for 60th District State Representative and Lake County Sheriff. The League had worked previously with the NAACP and Waukegan Leadership Council and asked both organizations to cosponsor this forum. Judy Hoffman (LWV-EV) not only moderated the forum but also made brief presentations about the Census Complete Count and the Fair Map Amendment petition to the full auditorium.

Democratic candidates for 60th District State Representative Eddie Washington (incumbent) and Angelo Kyle attended. There were no Republicans on the ballot. John Krempotic and Douglas Roberts, candidates for Lake County Sheriff, attended. The winner in the primary will run against Mark Curran, Republican incumbent, in the general election in November.

As the State League had clarified its position regarding the Fair Map redistricting petitions, LWV-LC volunteers were able to gather signatures at the forum.

League volunteers for this forum included:

- Jane Partridge (LWV-LF/LB)
- Jo-An Sabonjian (LWV-LF/LB)
- Rosemary Heilemann (LWV-DF)
- Diane Sanderson (LWV-LF/LB)
- Mary Mathews (LWV-LF/LB)

We are looking forward to the fall!

Report on Fort Sheridan Golf Course Meeting

As the Lake County League has a position on the Forest Preserve that begins, "the primary purposes of the Forest Preserve District of Lake County (FPDLC) should be conservation and preservation, followed by flood control, restoration, passive recreation and education, in that order of priority," we thought this community deliberation may be of interest to the members.

League member Carol Gilbert at-

tended the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve Master Plan Advisory Committee on February 10th and reports that a professional facilitator conducted most of the meeting, having interviewed all 24 committee members in advance. Varied ideas of the most appropriate use for the site were collected. The central question is whether to recommend that a golf course be constructed, as originally envisioned in the deed from

the federal government. In addition to four County Board Commissioners, the committee members represent municipalities and park districts in Highland Park, Highwood, Lake Forest, and Lake Bluff, and the Town of Fort Sheridan Homeowners Association. The committee is currently expected to meet again on April 14th, but no additional information is available.

Membership Report

From Ann Grant and Tracy Burns, Membership Co-Chairs

Please welcome our newest member:

Alicia Lydon
1350 Western Ave., #208
Lake Forest, IL 60045
847-295-5802
LussieLydon@att.net

Happie Datt, a former president of LWV-LF/LB, is serving in the Peace Corps in Macedonia. She has a blog address that she would like to share: www.happiedatt.blogspot.com. She would love to hear from you.

Please contact Ann Grant or Tracy Burns if you have any changes in your home address, phone num-

bers, or e-mail addresses. We don't want you to miss any communication from the League.

And as always, if you know of someone interested in the League, word of mouth is our best outreach. Tell them about the League and contact us and we'll help with the follow-up.

News & Notes

Success!

A fabulous time was had at the Grille on Laurel at our Annual Holiday Luncheon. Barbara Rinella was entertaining and engaging, and the LWV-LF/LB earned over \$500 profit from the Holiday Luncheon.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions, a joint program from the LWV-LF/LB and the local AAUW, meets on the second Friday of each month to discuss a for-

ign policy topic of immediate concern. Topics include the Global Financial Crisis; Russia and Its Neighbors; Global Crime; U.S.-China Security Relations; The Persian Gulf; and Peace Building and Conflict Resolution. Space is limited for this very popular program. For more information and to acquire a briefing book from the Foreign Policy Association, contact Pat Rounsaville, 847-295-3916.

Annual Meeting

Save the date: May 20, 2010

Watch your mail for an invitation to our Annual Meeting. Join the other members to determine the course of our League's immediate future. To facilitate the work, you will receive important committee reports including the Nominating Committee's proposal for next year's slate of officers and directors for the LWV-LF/LB.

17th ANNUAL
LUNCHEON
COMMEMORATING
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Sponsored by the Education Funds of the Leagues
of Women Voters of Deerfield, Evanston, Glencoe,
Glenview, Highland Park, Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, Park
Ridge, Wilmette, and Winnetka/Northfield/Kenilworth

"Women in Journalism" **Saturday, March 6, 2010**

11:45 a.m. Reception • 12:15 p.m. Luncheon • 1:00 p.m. Speaker

Location: The Glen Club, 2901 West Lake Avenue, Glenview

Guest Speaker Elizabeth Brackett

Elizabeth Brackett is a correspondent and substitute host of *Chicago Tonight* and, since 1984, a correspondent covering politics and urban problems for PBS' *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. She received a Peabody Award for her coverage of the 1988 presidential campaign, two Midwest Emmy Awards, and two Peter Lisagor Awards for Business Journalism. She became a first-time author in 2009 with her book, *Pay to Play: How Rod Blagojevich Turned Political Corruption into a National Sideshow*.



Cost: \$38

R.S.V.P by March 1

For more info call 847-866-7844 (LWV of Evanston voicemail)

Please bring non-perishable food items or paper goods for donation to a local Food Pantry.

Reservation Form – Women's History Month Luncheon

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Guest(s): _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ reservations at \$38 per person

Make checks payable to: LWVIL Education Fund

Mail to: Judy Elsass
2117 Harrison St.
Evanston, IL 60201

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

400 E. Illinois Rd.

Lake Forest, IL 60045



Always at your fingertips!

Want to share the local League with a friend? Share our website:

www.LWV-LFLB.org

Calendar

February 8	LWV-LF/LB Board Meeting, Gorton Community Center, 1:30 p.m.
February 12	Great Decisions, Betty Buker's, 1:00 p.m.
February 25	2010 Census Program, Lake Bluff Park District, 7:00 p.m.
March 3	LF Building Review Board, affordable housing on agenda, 6:30 p.m.
March 6	Women's History Month Luncheon, Glen Club, Glenview, 11:45 a.m.
March 8	LWV-LF/LB Board Meeting, Gorton Community Center, 1:30 p.m.
March 10	LF Plan Commission, affordable housing on agenda, 6:30 p.m.
March 12	Great Decisions, Betty Buker's, 1:00 p.m.
April 1	Fair Map Amendment petition signature drive finishes up
April 9	Great Decisions, Betty Buker's, 485 Oakwood, #A3, 1:00 p.m.
April 12	LWV-LF/LB Board Meeting, Gorton Community Center, 1:30 p.m.
April 22	LWV-LF/LB and AAUW: Book Review, <i>Frances Perkins</i>
May 14	Great Decisions, Betty Buker's, 1:00 p.m.
May 20	LWV-LF/LB Annual Meeting
June 11-15	LWV National Convention, Atlanta, Georgia
November 2	General Election



League Lines

NOVEMBER 2010

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Letter from the President

Call to Convention

- *The 55th LWV/L Convention is scheduled for June 10-12, 2011 in Skokie, Illinois.*

Save the Date

- *"Illinois' Financial Crisis," November 9, 7:00 p.m. Gorton Community Center, 400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest*

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We have been reflecting on the history of LWV lately in light of the League's 90th anniversary. On September 29, we held a "Birthday Bash," celebrating the efforts of the women who brought the League into existence. See page 2 for a recap of this enjoyable evening.

Our other recent activities have focused on education and action. As evidenced by the large turnout, our communities continue to value the League for its voter education, especially for our candidate forums. Both of our recent forums attracted overflow crowds.

Because of the Recall Amendment on the November 2 ballot, and with redistricting approaching, this fall we joined forces with the Highland Park League, to educate ourselves and the community on these important statewide issues. Look for other articles on recall and redistricting, both very important issues, in this news-

letter (pages 4 and 5).

I have made major efforts on behalf of the Settlers Green affordable housing project that came before the Lake Forest City Council (see page 5). LWV-LF/LB supports affordable housing, and we need all of you to be actively on board. Many thanks to Kitty Cole for chairing and to all who turned out for the Lake Forest City Council meeting.



Ninety years ago the League did not have the Internet, but we do now. To see the current issues our local league is engaged in, visit our website (lwv-lfb.org) and click on Issues. Also see the videos; you may watch

me talking about affordable housing, or the recent candidate forums. Thanks to Nicki Snoblin for this up-to-date presence online.

I hope all of you will attend the November 9 meeting with our state legislators, when we will focus on the state financial situation and other major concerns.

Also, mark your calendar for Friday, December 3, for our annual luncheon and review with Barbara Rinella. It's also a good chance to bring a guest to an entertaining League

Thank you to those of you who have returned your interest questionnaires. We have looked them over and plan to meet with those of you who have a common interest. And always, feel free to call me if you have any ideas or concerns.

I thank Mary Mathews and all the rest of you who have helped to accomplish our efforts!

—Jane Partridge, President

90 Years of League History

On February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, delegates from the National American Woman Suffrage Association met for a victory convention in Chicago. The realization of votes for women marked the end of the suffrage conventions. However, that convention was the official beginning of the League of Women Voters. Carrie Chapman Catt, in her convention address, proposed the formation of the League.

Six years later, Mrs. Frank Hixon organized the LWV of Lake Forest, and two years later, Gertrude

Northcott and her friends invited Mrs. Hixon to speak to their group in Lake Bluff. One of their earliest meetings was a candidate forum.

Some of the issues our predecessors supported were the merit system in civil service for all branches of government, the elimination of legal discrimination against women, federal suffrage in the District of Columbia, the welfare of children, and a shorter ballot for the state of Illi-

It is interesting that 90 years after the League was formed we are still fighting various forms of discrimi-

nation against women. Of the 192 nations that have ratified CEDAW, the U.S. is the only developed country not to do so, and Illinois is one of the states blocking it. (CEDAW is the international treaty to replace the Equal Rights Amendment; it stands for the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.) Our forebears worked on issues and helped to make law. Today we are still challenged to act upon public policy vigorously to make democracy work at all levels.

—Jane Partridge

Birthday Bash a Successful Membership Event

Our Membership Committee was in full swing and started our year off with a great party! The Birthday Bash on September 29th celebrated the national League's 90th birthday and also our local League's 85th birthday. Tracy Burns opened her lovely home (hid the cat and dog) and served champagne and chocolate—what more could anyone ask for! There were other treats, such as



Phyllis Albrecht, Suzanne Henderson, and Tina O'Connor with Tracy Burns, arrayed as a young woman of the 1970's for the skit.

a birthday cake with sparklers (see page 1). OK, so we were feeling pretty youthful and enthusiastic. Unfortunately, Mary Ritter and Susan Garrett both wore leg braces from recent injuries and were not able to move around as much as they might have wanted.

Jane Partridge provided a history of the League's activities and drew parallels to events in U.S. history during the same time period. Carol Gilbert, Ann Grant, Tracy Burns, Lisa Dietrich, and Mary Ritter read their parts while Jane



Carol Gilbert makes a perfect flapper!

directed. Their elaborate period clothes brought the timeline to life and added quite a bit of color. Members and guests were inspired in learning how the organization and the country influenced each other.

Many thanks go to Mary Ritter and

Tracy Burns and everyone else who helped with this party. It was a great success.

For the few of you who still have not paid your dues, the opportunity to be included in this year's Membership Directory is ending shortly. Please send your check promptly.

Candidate Forums Attract Overflow Crowds

Candidate forums require experienced, sharp League members working together in a variety of capacities. Candidates agree to participate in League-sponsored forums because we consistently provide a fair venue for them to share their platform.

Our League helped sponsor candidate forums on September 22 at Glenbrook South High School in Glenview and at the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Senior Center on September 30.

The forum in Glenview, co-sponsored by our League and the Highland Park, Glencoe, Glenview, and other leagues in the 10th Dis-

trict, featured candidates for the 10th Congressional District, Robert Dold and Dan Seals. More than 1000 people attended.

The forum in Lake Forest included candidates running for State Representative in the 58th and 59th Districts, Lake County Board District 23, Lake County Superintendent of Schools, Lake County Clerk, Lake County Sheriff, and Lake County Treasurer. Approximately 150 people attended the forum in Lake Forest. Jane Partridge welcomed the attendees and Joan Kalsas served as the moderator for the 58th District.

Videos of the forums and bios of the candidates are available on our League's own website, lwv-lfb.org.

Thanks to all who volunteered and attended the forums. We appreciate the part you played in their success. Someone mentioned to us that they thought the candidate forums are the most important service the



Candidates for the 10th Congressional seat Robert Dold and Dan Seals seemed miles apart during their debate in Glenview.

League gives to the community. We think you will all agree that our 90-year-old organization can be proud of the work we do to promote voter information.

—Ann Hanlin and Ann Grant,
Voter Service Chairs



Carlton Marcyan and Anne Bassi for Lake County Board District 23.



Lauren Turelli and Karen May for State Representative in the 58th District.

LWV-LF/LB Program: "Illinois' Financial Crisis"

November 9, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest

Even though the election is over, civic participation is not. The League of Women Voters is already thinking ahead to the next legislative session and is looking for information and answers about Illinois'

financial crisis. LWV-LF/LB has reserved the Green Room at the Gorton Community Center for 7:00 p.m. on November 9, and State Senator Susan Garrett has agreed to meet with us to address the State budget crisis. Mark your calendar and come with a friend. League members are known for asking

compelling questions, and Senator Garrett, who is a past local League President herself, is particularly straightforward about the state of the State. Senator Garrett will speak primarily about the State's finances but will also address other concerns raised that evening.

Save the Dates!

Annual Holiday Luncheon
December 3, 10:00 a.m.
The Grille on Laurel

LWV-LF/LB Area's annual holiday get-together will be on Friday, December 3, at the Grille on Laurel. This time Barbara Rinella will give two dramatic presentations. The event begins at 10 a.m.; coffee will be served during the program, followed by a limited-menu luncheon. Lake Forest Bookstore will bring a selection of gift books as well as Barbara's recommendations, so plan to do your holiday shopping, too. Invitations will arrive by mail.

It is easy to support the League with this traditional and entertaining community event!

The U.S. and Cuba
March 3, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
LF/LB Senior Center

Professor Alberto Coll, from the College of Law at DePaul University, will speak to our League about the United States' relationship with Cuba.

Professor Coll is the recipient of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service for his work as deputy assistant secretary of de-

fense (1990-1993) and the Antonio Jose Irisarri Medal (2004) for his contribution to strengthening the rule of law and civilian control over the military in Guatemala. He authored *The Wisdom of Statecraft* and is the editor of several other books on international relations and law. Professor Coll teaches courses in the areas of international law, human rights, international trade, and Latin America.

Did you see us in the Lake Forest parade in August? That's Jane Partridge in the car, with a couple of exuberant young volunteers banner-carriers.



LWVIL Talks About Redistricting

Redistricting is coming. LWVIL is interested in an improved process that will ensure the fairest representation for the citizens of the state.

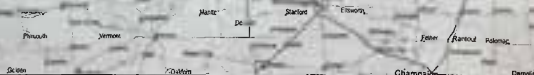
It is predicted that, due to the most recent census, Illinois will lose at least one, or maybe two, seats in the House of Representatives. Regardless of the number of seats, populations have shifted internally in the state and district boundaries are scheduled to be redrawn, as they are after every census.

We and the LWV of Highland Park invited Mary Scharfsma from the LWVIL office to come and share with us the redistricting problems and possibilities for reform. She emphasizes the importance of changing the method for redistricting as it is now done.

Redistricting should not be partisan, although the winning party has historically determined the districts. At present, returning incumbents win 98% of the time, which puts

too much power in the hands of legislative leaders. Poor redistricting practices result in a lack of competition and voter choice, and often communities are split. Less tangible, but real, effects include greater possibilities for public corruption and government gridlock.

Join us and the LWVIL in supporting an improved process that will guide the redistricting in 2011.



Affordable Housing

The LF/LB League has actively supported local affordable senior housing for the past eight years. Our League last spring at the Annual Meeting voted to support affordable housing for others as well as for seniors. Consistent with our goals, Lake Forest has an ordinance stating all new construction should provide 10% of units for seniors or that percentage in money should be set aside for senior affordable housing. In addition, Illinois state law requires every town of a certain size to provide affordable housing.

Currently available rentals in Lake Forest have dwindled to far below

their historic levels. The Housing Trust, recognizing this critical need, developed the Settlers Green project for 16 mixed affordable townhouses across from the train station at Telegraph and Everett Roads. This very real opportunity for affordable housing in Lake Forest is at risk. At its October 18th meeting, the City Council directed the Housing Trust to go back and study the project further for financial concerns and for indicating a certain percentage for seniors.

Our backing for this project is critical. We need to act in a timely manner because the builder is eligible to

get tax credits at a time when private financing for new building is almost nonexistent and the need is urgent.

We will continue to follow and actively support the Settlers Green project. The efforts of Kitty Cole, chair, and the members of our Affordable Housing Committee are laudable, but the project has not yet been approved by the City Council. It is not too late for those who are interested to call Kitty Cole (847-735-0418) or Jane Partridge (847-234-1247) to help make affordable housing a reality in Lake Forest.

Background on the Recall Amendment

From defining the process to determining the financial and political implications, the LWVIL thoughtfully analyzed what the recall amendment on the November 2 ballot would mean for Illinois. Although the election has passed, their findings are summarized here for our members' information.

Recall is the process whereby voters can remove and replace an elected official before the end of his or her term of office. The amendment in Illinois would allow recall of only the Governor.

The process would require the following:

- Any proponent of recall may file an affidavit with the Illinois State Board of Elections during the first 6 months of a Governor's term of office.

- The affidavit must be signed by at least 10 members of the Illinois House. No more than 50% of the signatures in each chamber can be from members of the same political party.
- Petitions must be signed by at least 15% of the total votes cast for Governor in the preceding general election.
- About 525,000 signatures must be collected (100 or more from each of at least 25 of Illinois' 102 counties) and submitted to the State Board of Elections for certification within 150 days.

If the State Board, within 100 days, determines the signatures are sufficient, it will call for a special election for voters to decide on recall.

If the recall is successful, the Governor is immediately removed from office and an acting Governor is appointed. Another election is

held—within 60 days of the recall election—to elect a successor Governor, who holds office until the next election for Governor.

The recall process could take up to 13 months. The cost, estimated by the State Board, for both elections would be \$101 million.

Eighteen other states permit recalls, not just for the Governor. Few gubernatorial recall attempts have been successful. Prior to the 2003 recall of California Governor Gray Davis, the only other successful recall was of North Dakota Governor Lynn Frazier in 1921. California voters have initiated 32 gubernatorial recall attempts since 1911, but the 2003 recall of Governor Davis was the first to reach the ballot.

Further information is available at www.lwvil.org.

Report on Lake Michigan LWV Annual Meeting

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the LMLWV was held on October 9, 2010 at Manitowoc, Wisconsin and was attended on behalf of LWV-LF/LB by Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden.

LMLWV has found a supporter in Manitowoc Mayor Justin Nickels, who spoke to the convened group prior to the business meeting on Saturday morning. Of particular interest is the fact that he has started a Mayor's Youth Action Council for the purpose of engaging his community in advocacy for Lake Michigan.

Judy Johnston, who many of you have known from our League and the Lake County League, is the newly elected President of LMLWV.

The 2010-2011 Program of the LMLWV will be based on the national resources positions of the LWVUS as they relate to the environmental issues affecting the Lake Michigan Basin and surrounding

states, to include the following:

- Educate the public and the Lake Michigan Leagues on the problems of Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes
- Encourage public participation in planning for the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes
- Support scientific research for the Great Lakes
- Encourage shoreline management planning and implementation

State reports were given by representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin (which will be further highlighted in the next issue of *SPLASH*, the newsletter of the LMLWV; watch for it at www.lmlwv.org).

Directions were given to the Board regarding CAFOs, genetically altered plants and animals, future infrastructure development within the Lake Michigan Watershed, and emphasizing pre-European settlement and history within the Lake

Michigan Watershed and shoreline areas (Native American activity) as part of LMLWV's educational activities.

In her closing remarks, President Judy Johnston encouraged all members to participate and be visible in their activism concerning Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes.

A lunchtime speaker, Jim Knickelbine, from the Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Reserve in Twin Rivers, Wisconsin, made a wonderful presentation that walked us through life at the Dunes. With photos and words he showed the complexity of the wildlife and environment residing within the Reserve and how interrelated it is with the health and balance of Lake Michigan.

The festivities concluded with the opportunity to go to the Woodland Dunes Reserve for a tour and walk with Mr. Knickelbine.

—Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden



LWV-LF/LB NewsBriefs by E-mail

Have you been getting our LWV-LF/LB NewsBriefs in your e-mail inbox? Did you see our new e-mail format starting October 20? If not, let us know your current e-mail address so we can add you to the list.

Want to be kept up to date with timely, catchy, brief, and pertinent news? Watch your e-mail inbox for the LWV NewsBriefs.

Don't want to wait for information to come to you? Check out what is

happening anytime at www.lwv-lfllb.org. Be sure to check out the videos of recent forums, as well as President Jane Partridge being interviewed for Chicago Tonight!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LAKE FOREST/LAKE BLUFF AREA

Please complete the following information and return with your check to
LWV-LFLB (attn: Membership), PO Box 645, Lake Forest, IL 60045

2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip _____

MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

Please mark your area of expertise/interest to be published in the directory (rank top two selections).

Local Issues

Affordable Housing
Safety/Disaster Preparedness
School Funding
Land Development
Transportation
Other _____

Natural Resource Issues

Land Use
Wetlands
Recycling
Pesticides
Water Quality
Other _____

County and State Issues

County Government
Criminal Justice
State Election Laws
Restricting
Other _____

Social Policy Issues

Children's Services
Mental Health
Income Assistance
Drug Rehabilitation
Other _____

National

Immigration
Civil Liberties
Safeguarding Democracy
Security/Terrorism
Other _____

International

Nuclear Proliferation
Global Warming
United Nations
Military/Defense Spending
Other _____

I am interested in participating in the Great Decisions Discussion Group _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Patron ☐ \$250
Benefactor ☐ \$200
Advocate ☐ \$150
Sponsor ☐ \$100
Supporter ☐ \$75

Member ☐ \$65
Senior Member ☐ \$60
Student Member ☐ \$25
Associate Member ☐ \$25

(non-voting: for non US Citizens or less than 18 years old)

Please make checks
payable to LWV-LFLB.
Dues are not deductible
for income tax
purposes

I would also like to make a separate tax-deductible donation to the LWV Education Fund of \$_____
(Make Check Payable to LWV Education Fund)

I WANT TO HELP

- I will host a 2 hour coffee meeting at my home on _____ (specify month, day & am or pm).
- I will help with the letter for bulk area mailing in July/August for September mailing
- I will take responsibility for LWVIL Phonathon in February/March 2011
- I will help with the Annual Meeting packet (assembly and printing) in early April, 2011
- I will help with sub-committee reports for Annual Meeting: Programs By-Laws Budget (specify one)
- I love parties and will coordinate ☐Holiday Luncheon-Dec 2010; ☐Annual Meeting-May, 2011 (specify one)

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

P.O. Box 645

Lake Forest, IL 60045



**What are these women doing?
See page 2!**



Dates to Remember

November 2	Election Day
November 8	LWV-LF/LB Board Meeting 1:30 p.m., Lake Forest Bank
November 9	Program: "Illinois' Financial Crisis" 7:00 p.m., Gorton Community Center
December 3	Holiday Luncheon, Grille on Laurel

Always at your fingertips!

Want to share the
local League with a friend?
Share our website:
www.LWV-LFLB.org

LWV-LF/LB Board of Directors

Jane Partridge	President
Ann Hamlin	Vice President, Voter Service
Ann Grant	Vice President, Voter Service
Tracy Burns	Vice President, Membership
Mary Ritter	Vice President, Membership
Marilyn Shineflug	Secretary
Liz Bradner	Treasurer
Lisa Dietrich	Program
Cindy Morehead	Program
Linda Bartmes	LWVLC Board Liaison
Carol Gilbert	Communication
Jan Schnobrich	Voter Registration
Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden	LMLWV Board Liaison
Off-Board Positions	
Nicki Snoblin	Webmaster
Staff	
Bev Adamczyk	Newsletter
Nicki Snoblin	Newsletter



League Lines

FEBRUARY 2011

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area



What is this woman doing?
See page 3.

SAVE THE DATE!

State League Convention

June 10-12, 2011

At the Holiday Inn North
Shore Chicago, Skokie

Be involved! Be inspired!



Election Day is April 5
Early Voting starts March 14

Inside this issue:

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Letter from the President

Mary Mathews and I were breathless after the more-than-full full schedule, but after a short winter's nap, we're ready to go again in 2011!

Our big effort: advocating for affordable housing was heard several times at City Council and even on WTTW TV on "Chicago Tonight." I appreciate the attendance of many of you at the Council meetings to show support.

The Illinois' Fiscal Crisis program in early November at Gorton was well attended. Our speaker, John Bouman, from the Responsible Budget Coalition, was joined by state Senators Susan Garrett and Terry Link (see page 4 for a report).

Early December brought our annual Holiday Luncheon at the Grille on Laurel. Barbara Rinella entertained us with *Claude and Camille*. There was a good turnout and a number of nonmember guests. Then on the 18th, Great Decisions celebrated with Happie Dart on her holiday recess from the Peace Corps in Macedonia and listened to her report on the state of women there and her efforts helping them.

Thanks to our program chairs, Cindy Morehead and Lisa Dietrich, we had an informative program presented by our municipal administrators Bob Kiely and Drew Irvin in January. There is much that is positive to report locally (see page 3).

Mary Mathews, Cindy Morehead, Diane Sanderson and I attended the State League Issues Briefing in early February. Ralph Martire, Executive Director of the Center for Budget and Tax Accountability, and Kathy Ryg, former Illinois state representative and current president of Voices for Illinois Children, spoke about the fiscal crisis and its ramifications. The speakers pointed out that Illinois still, even with the recent tax increase, has lower taxes than any surrounding state except Missouri; that for every \$1 the state spends, \$1.35 comes back because it creates jobs for workers; that our state budget is mean and lean already; that 35% of the budget goes for education, 35% for health care, 21% for human services (mental health, children, etc.), and 5% for public safety; that the "trickle-down theory" has proven not to be

true; and that more and more children are growing up in poverty in Illinois (19-20% this year) and as a result there is lower educational achievement, diminished employment prospects, and greater health problems for our children.

The other workshops were on redistricting, health care reform, and pension reform. We will try to keep you informed so that you may pass on the information to friends in our community. One of our major jobs is education on public policy!

The February Board Meeting on February 14th was followed by tea and goodies and a discussion on our League Program for the coming year. Thank you to all who attended for your input and ideas!

Join us and fellow Leaguers for two excellent programs in March. On the 3rd at 7:00 pm, Professor Alberto Coll will speak on U.S.-Cuban relations at the Senior Center. I highly recommend his talk, as I have heard him. Also, on March 5th is the Women's History Month Luncheon in Glenview. Rachel Bronson, V.P. of Programs and Studies at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, will be the speaker (see page 2).

And there is more to come: a program in April, the annual meeting in May, and the State Convention June 10-12 in Skokie. I hope most of you will try to attend, for our National president, Elisabeth McNamara, will be there and the program should be very informative and inspiring. Conventions are a great way to learn what is happening in Leagues outside our own community.

As a final word, for the first time in our 90-year history there is a serious concern about civility in all of our forums and programs (page 4). Even though we have our partisan views individually, the League must remain nonpartisan and must continue to hold discussions and write articles of information on public policy. We need your input, your help, and your recruitment of new members!

Jane Partridge, Co-President

P.S.: We are accepting Program suggestions for next year. Please contact a board member or call me at 847-234-1247.

Upcoming Contested Elections

Be Informed With the LWV-LFLB Video Voters Guide!

Voter Service co-chairs Ann Hamlin and Ann Grant are trying a new format to provide voters a chance to learn about the candidates in our local School Board elections. With the support of LFTV, each of the 12 candidates (four for the three seats on each board) was videotaped giving a five-minute talk about his or her qualifications to serve and answering questions the candidates were given before the taping. The result is a Video Voters Guide, which is available on our website, www.lwv-lflb.org. The Video Voters Guide is also being broadcast on LFTV now through April 5. A DVD of the Video Voters Guide is available upon request (contact Ann G. or Ann H.). We hope this will provide voters an informative, convenient source to use when they are deciding how they will cast their vote. We welcome your feedback.

Consolidated Election Information

Just as we can count on the winter chawing and the return of spring, Illinois residents can look forward to consolidated elections every odd-numbered year in the spring. Ballots will include city, village, and library officials. This spring the local school boards have contested elections.

- March 8: Last day to register to vote
- March 11: Voting by mail begins in the County Clerk's office
- March 14: Early voting begins
- March 31: Early voting ends
- April 5: Consolidated General Election



Scenes from December's Holiday Luncheon - well attended and enjoyed!



Cuba and the United States: Will They Ever Be Friends?

Thursday, March 3, 7:00 pm
LF/LB Senior Center
100 E. Old Mill Road

Have you thought much about Cuba lately? Maybe you heard that sugar will no longer be subsidized in that country. But how much do you know about our close neighbor to the south? The League of Women Voters and the AAUW are joining forces to bring Dr. Alberto Coll to Lake Forest for an evening that shouldn't be missed!

Renowned speaker Dr. Alberto Coll, professor of International Law at DePaul University Law School, will discuss the relationship between Cuba and the United States,



English. He went on to graduate cum laude from Princeton University and earned his J.D. and Ph.D. in government and foreign affairs from University of Virginia. Before joining DePaul, Dr. Coll taught at George-

town University and was a Senior Research Fellow at the Naval War College. From 1990-93 he served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and earned the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service. He is the author of *The Wisdom of Statecraft* as well as many articles in international law journals and *Foreign Policy* magazine.

Born in Cuba, Professor Coll came to the United States at the age of 13, knowing no

English. He went on to graduate cum laude from Princeton University and earned his J.D. and Ph.D. in government and foreign affairs from University of Virginia. Before joining DePaul, Dr. Coll taught at George-

town University and was a Senior Research Fellow at the Naval War College. From 1990-93 he served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and earned the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service. He is the author of *The Wisdom of Statecraft* as well as many articles in international law journals and *Foreign Policy* magazine.

Dr. Coll has written on, and traveled extensively to, Cuba. You will not want to miss this informative discussion about the future of the United States' relationship with Cuba. Come, and bring your spouse and friends. Questions? Call Cindy (847-295-6470).

E-ALERTS: NOT JUST FILLER FOR YOUR INBOX!

You've been getting them ... but have you been reading them? Carol Gilbert sends out our e-alerts periodically. Often pithy and witty, always brief and to the point, they're a good quick read - and they're the easiest way for you to stay on top of what we're doing. So the next time you see "LWV-LFLB" in your inbox - open it up!

OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT!

Serve your community and your League. Do you like to write? Possibilities are newsletter mini-briefs and press releases or longer essays on vital topics. Do you have some time to spare for any of those activities? Or could you take pictures that could be published in the local media? Can you serve on the Board in some capacity?

Please call Mary (847-295-1494) if you would like to hear some more choices, or would like to suggest some. Contributing just a few hours can be very helpful to the League and very rewarding for you!

"State of the Community" With Our Municipal Administrators

Last month's "State of the Union" address was followed the next evening by our own live "State of the Community" address delivered by the administrators in charge of the day-to-day operations of the City and Village to League members and friends.

Lake Forest City Manager Bob Kiely spoke about the "new normal" and wondered aloud, "How much retail is optimal?" He noted "interest is increasing" for retail storefronts now. Another pleasant circumstance for Lake Forest is the TARP money funded the just-completed Waukegan Road and Green Bay Road projects.

Lake Bluff Village Administrator Drew Irvin is especially proud of the Village's reinvestment in its central business district. Lake Bluff was also able to secure grants for radio equipment and paving work that will improve water quality. Another special project in Lake Bluff is the Rts. 176 & 41 preliminary engineering design intended to further encourage state action.

Though real estate activity is increasing, both towns have parcels with uncertain futures. Barat, Settler's Green, Lansdowne, the former Bath & Tennis, and Stonebridge were cited. Though in some cases "multiple offers" are rumored, the viability of those offers in a finicky market is hard to gauge.

The administrators also listed their policy priorities for the coming year. Bob Kiely puts business first on his list: the extensive road construction near Market Square is

now complete, and as the economy rights itself commercial interests are expected to rebound. Second on his list is affordable housing, with an expanded Housing Trust Board to "expand the discussion." Third is improved communications: the new online Citizens Communications Center will ensure a timely response to residents' questions. On a lighter note, the City will



host its 150th celebration. The "big let-out" will be Labor Day weekend, with the Dave Mason Band performing near Market Square.

Drew Irvin also cited business interests as a first priority, with an emphasis on the evolving retail corridor on Waukegan Road. Special events are a second feature of Village life, as are quality communications, evidenced by the newly redesigned Village website. A new category of interests derives from the Village's first strategic plan since

the 1920s. The new plan lists initiatives to keep the village "robust and stable" and maintain an "unparalleled quality of life."

In response to audience questions, we learned that a new stoplight is being planned for Waukegan Road in Lake Bluff; senior housing initiatives in Lake Forest are dormant primarily because "seniors are not moving"; affordable housing is "front and center," though not necessarily in the form of Settler's Green; pension concerns continue, though future workers will have smaller packages; Gorton will continue as a Community Center, with some new tenants; "connectivity needs work" in Lake Bluff, particularly with respect to the Sanctuary neighborhood; the Rec Center in Lake Forest is doing well financially; and McKinley Road near the train station is becoming a cultural corridor, a development model that will be encouraged.

It was with much good humor that the administrators and audience discussed garbage – extensively. Drew Irvin noted the roller bins have increased recycling 30%. The transition to pickup once a week was "seamless." Garbage was outsourced, helping the Village reduce staff by a quarter. The Village drivers were guaranteed jobs with the new company, and some snowplowing has been privatized, too. Cost savings have exceeded expectations. Bob Kiely says Lake Forest may take a closer look at that!

Good Food, Good Company, and Good Books!

Was it Camille's bright emerald green gown, the holiday decorations, the dessert, or catching up with friends that made our holiday luncheon so enjoyable? Members and guests thoroughly enjoyed the annual Holiday Luncheon at The Grille on Friday, December 3rd. Barbara Rinella, dressed in an elegant gown and sparkling jewels, portrayed Camille from the book *Claude and Camille: A Novel of Monet*. Rinella's interpretation was amusing and delightful and set the tone for the rest of the morning.

The food was tasty and filling, with many oohs and aahs about the choices of desserts. Conversations covering a wide range of subjects from additions to families, travel plans,

election results, and a multitude of other interests. There wasn't enough time to catch up with everyone.

While the luncheon was a great membership event, it also served as a fundraiser. Lisa Dietrich again provided books from the Lake Forest Book Store with a percentage of the sales donated to the League. Also this year, Linda Bartmes provided beautiful holiday table decorations that were sold and the profit was donated to the League.

Thank you to all who were able to attend and to those who worked so hard to organize this event. See our website for more photos (www.lfw-lfb.org).



Barbara Rinella as Camille: A Novel of Monet, at the Holiday Luncheon.

Illinois' Fiscal Crisis

The audience filled the room at Gorton Community Center for our November program - Illinois' Fiscal Crisis. John Bouman, President of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, spoke on behalf of the Responsible Budget Coalition. Bouman explained the current state financial problems and the resulting impacts. State Senators for Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Susan Garrett and Terry Link also were speakers and outlined their experiences with the fiscal problems and possible solutions. Audience members were active in asking probing questions and requesting results. There were

some lively exchanges and some unpleasant realizations. While acknowledging there were obvious problems, each of our three speakers had suggestions for resolving some of the systemic issues. All agreed that the budget had to be fixed, and that the state could no longer put off addressing the pressing problem.

The League of Women Voters joined with over 200 other nonprofit organizations as a coalition partner in the Responsible Budget Coalition. The League believes the state needs to increase its revenues, pay its past-due bills, and provide essential public

services. For more information about the Coalition, please see their website, www.abetterillinois.com.



From Our Mailbox

After the fall elections we received this thoughtful commentary from Nancy Marcus concerning civility in public discourse and support for League moderators. We want to share it with you, too.

November 16, 2010

Dear League Leaders,

As you may have read or heard the League of Women Voters of Illinois came under attack. The LWV of Lake County held a forum for the 8th Congressional District, which was co-sponsored by Grayslake Central High School. During this forum there was a disruption from audience members demanding that the Pledge of Allegiance be recited. After most in the audience stood and said the Pledge, the Moderator tried to re-gain control. Many unfavorable blog articles were written about the Moderator and the League, and League was featured on Inside Edition and the Glen Beck Show. Some of the postings threatened the moderator of the forum and our executive director. Police reports were filed and an account was sent to the FBI. We stand by the Moderator and hope that all you can empathize with her role in this.

This is unacceptable behavior and should not be tolerated by anyone. Unfortunately this was not the only case of incivility. Leagues across the country have faced similar disruptions to their forums. Under the advisement of the LWVUS, the LWVIL chose not to respond to the blogs and articles. We will, however, work with the

WATCH FOR INFORMATION ...

about an April program. Details to come (check your e-alerts!).

ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE!

Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 pm (place TBD)

LWVUS to craft a message as we look forward to the 2012 elections. As Nancy Tate, Executive Director of the LWVUS said, "these attacks represent a concerted attack of our credibility as a trusted, nonpartisan organization - and one which is likely to get stronger in 2012. We intend to stand strongly on this."

Looking forward to the 2011 Consolidated Elections in your towns, the LWVIL is working to create guidelines that will help you as you plan for upcoming forums. We cannot prevent occurrences like this from happening but with better preparations perhaps we can respond more effectively.

Our work in Voter Service projects is vital to not only the League but to our communities. We need to continue our Voter Service work as we have done for the last 90 years. If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marcus, President
President@lwvill.org

Jan Dornier, Vice-president Voter Service
Voterservice@lwvill.org

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

Jane Partridge	Co-President
Mary Mathews	Co-President
Ann Hamlin	Vice President, Voter Service
Ann Grant	Vice President, Voter Service
Tracy Burns	Vice President, Membership
Mary Ritter	Vice President, Membership
Marilyn Shineflug	Secretary
Liz Bradner	Treasurer
Lisa Dietrich	Program
Cindy Morehead	Program
Linda Bartmes	LWVLC Board Liaison
Carol Gilbert	Communication
Jan Schnobrich	Voter Registration
Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden	LMLWV Board Liaison

Off-Board Positions

Nicki Snoblin Webmaster

Staff

Bev Adamczyk Newsletter
Nicki Snoblin Newsletter

18TH Annual Luncheon
Commemorating
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Sponsored by the Education Funds of the Leagues of Women Voters of Deerfield, Evanston, Glencoe, Glenview, Highland Park, Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, Park Ridge, Wilmette, and Winnetka/Northfield/Kenilworth

'WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP''

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2011

11:45 a.m. Reception • 12:15 p.m. Luncheon • 1:00 p.m. Speaker

Location: The Glen Club, 2901 West Lake Avenue, Glenview (847-724-7272)

Entrance to The Glen Club is directly across from the Glenview National 9 Golf Course.

Map available at www.theglenclub.com



Rachel Bronson is Vice President of Programs and Studies at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She oversees more than 150 yearly programs as well as The Council's increasing intellectual capital. Prior to that, Dr. Bronson was Senior Fellow and Director, Middle East Studies, at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. She received her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania; M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Dr. Bronson's book, *Thicker than Oil: America's Uneasy Partnership with Saudi Arabia* (Oxford University Press, 2006), has been translated into Japanese and published in paperback. Her writings have appeared in publications such as *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The New York Times*, and *The Chicago Tribune*. She has commented widely on foreign affairs in outlets such as NPR, CNN, *The Lehrer News Hour*, *The Charlie Rose Show*, and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Dr. Bronson has served as a consultant to NBC News and the Center for Naval Analyses. She has testified before the Congressional Anti-Terrorist Finance Task Force, Congress' Joint Economic Committee and the 9/11 Commission.

Cost: \$38 — Reservations must be received by March 1

For more info call 847-604-1207, Glencoe ext.

Donations will be collected for the YWCA Evanston North Shore Domestic Violence Program and the YWCA Lake County School Age After School Program. In addition to monetary donations, the YWCA Evanston needs Polaroid 600 film, large and x-large disposable diapers, new socks and underwear for women and children, gift cards to stores (Jewel, Dominicks, Target).

Monetary donations to the YWCA Lake County will go towards purchasing children's board games.

Reservation Form – Women's History Month Luncheon

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Guest(s): _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ reservations at \$38 per person

Make checks payable to: LWVIL Education Fund

Mail to: Hollis Burgess
 945 Valley Road
 Glencoe, IL 60022

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

P.O. Box 645

Lake Forest, IL 60045

www.LWV-LFLB.org



DON'T MISS ...

- March 3 U.S.-Cuba Relations
Speaker: Dr. Alberto Coll
7:00 pm, LF/LB Senior Center
- March 5 Women's History Month Luncheon
See page 5 for registration info - Register by March 1!
- March 14 Early Voting Starts
Lake Forest City Hall
- April 5 Consolidated Election
- May 17 Annual Meeting
7:00 pm, location TBD
- June 10-12 LWVIL State Convention
Holiday Inn North Shore Chicago,
Skokie, IL

Does this look familiar to you?

If not, you haven't visited our website!

Click it out at

www.LWV-LFLB.org



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What's new?

Grassroots and Goodies

Come join us over a cup of tea, and enjoy some Valentine's Day sweets and other goodies when we meet on February 14th. We will discuss Program Planning at the state and local levels for next year. The Tea will start at 3:00, and we should spend about an hour on recommendations for state and local programs. Only with input from our members will we have a viable, exciting, action-oriented program to move us forward in influencing public policy! Click here for detailed information on the process.

[Click here to read our most recent newsletter.](#)

[Visit the News Archive](#)

We will meet at Abbie's house (email us for location). Please park in her driveway or on Briar Lane so as not to block her neighbors' driveways.

Our Town

If you want to know what is going on in Lake Forest or Lake Bluff, you can go to the municipal websites ... or you can attend a meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 7:30pm. The League of Women Voters is holding a community dialogue with Bob Kiely, Lake Forest City Manager, and Drew Irvin, Lake Bluff Village Administrator. The program will be at the Lake Bluff Park District, 355 W. Washington Ave., Lake Bluff.





League Lines

SUMMER 2011

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

To view the Program for 2010-2011, please see our website, www.LWV-LFLB.org. Issues and Action page.

2011 Annual Meeting

After days of rainy and cold weather, May 17th was warm and clear, providing lovely conditions for the 2010 Annual Meeting. Mary Ritter opened her home and enhanced the warmth of the day with her gracious hospitality. Conversation groups filled every space. After much catching up, members enjoyed a delicious pasta dinner from Wisma. Over dessert, members got down to business.

The meeting went swiftly and smoothly. A busy Program based on many National and State priorities was adopted. The Proposed Budget and Bylaw amendments were approved. And finally, the Nominating Slate was voted for unanimously.

Many thanks go to retiring LWV-LF/LB Area Board members: Carol Gilbert, Ann Hamlin, Robbyn McFadden, and Marilyn Shineflug. And welcome to Midge Heurich, who will be the Lake Michigan LWV Liaison.



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Letter from the President

At the Beijing Women's Forum in 1995 U.S. women were exhorted "to go home and make democracy work; for the U.S. is the hope of the world." We, League of Women Voters, have the best opportunity to make democracy work through our candidate forums, voter registration, and education on public policy issues. We must remember that our non-partisan perspective informs all our activity, even though our members may have partisan views. And we have political positions that we have studied as thoroughly as possible and we act upon them.

For instance, Elizabeth McNamara, our national president, at our LWVIL convention this June, told about the advertisements the League ran supporting the EPA Clean Air Act and naming two well-known senators, one Republican and one Democrat. The senators were named because they had voted against the act the League advocates.

President McNamara also spoke about current lack of civility, a problem we have faced here in Lake County this year. Even George Washington, at age 16, in his small book on civil manners noted first the importance of listening to and being civil to "all who are present." "Always remember George!" It is imperative that our leadership model and encourage listening and discussion based upon facts.

On April 10th our monthly meeting, partnered with Mothers Trust Foundation, fea-

tured Ralph Martire, from the non-partisan Office of Tax and Budget Accountability. Kathy Ryg, from Voices of Illinois Children, and Krisley Long of United Way. The panel made clear that education, health and human services all come out of only 21 percent of the state budget. Consequently, cutbacks hurt our children, particularly the many living in poverty. And when our children are poorly educated, they are unprepared for the workforce in our state. The meeting at Gorton was broadcast on Ch. 17 and 19 all of May and can be made available to anyone interested ... which brings us to encourage all of you to attend our monthly meetings ... meaningful dialogue and for getting to know each other better. We were happy to see that our annual meeting at Mary Ritter's was very well attended. If you weren't there, you missed some good food, great conversation and a productive meeting!

Liz Bradner, Mary Mathews, Cindy Morehead, Jane Partridge, and Diane Sanderson attended the LWVIL Convention in June. The convention was galvanizing. We return energized with new ideas and fresh information and eager to progress with what we've learned from other Leagues.

Looking ahead this summer, we need your help to design and grace the floats for the Lake Bluff July 4th parade and the 150th Anniversary Lake Forest Day Parade on August 3rd. Our League history, if you include

the fight for women's suffrage that led to the direct establishment of the LWV in 1920, and the 91 years since, is approximately parallel to Lake Forest's 150 years of history. It was well-to-do and middle-class women who led the charge, often at their own peril. We're not asking you "to lay down your life," but we are inviting all of you to join us "make democracy work," in whatever way, large or small.

Next year we would like to have local League members observe our local governmental board meetings. If this interests you, let us know and what board you would like to observe. We also need League members to serve on study groups. For instance, the LWVUS wants input by November 30 on "The Federal Role in Public Education" (see page 7). Some of you have evinced interest in certain topics of local interest as well.

We will host a New Membership affair in September, and we have been planning some interesting programs, including a Holiday Luncheon with a new actress and storyteller as well as candidate forums in February. Bring a new member and bring your ideas. Your support in whatever way is important!

It is a good summer and hope to see you in a month.

Jane and Mary

Report on the LWVIL Convention, June 10-12

Four members of our league - Jane Partridge, Mary Mathews, Liz Bradner, and Cindy Morehead - attended the Biennial LWVIL Convention in Skokie the weekend of June 10th. We joined more than 90 delegates representing 28 leagues throughout Illinois for 2½ days of meetings, workshops and networking. We went to two workshops Friday afternoon and another Saturday afternoon. I especially enjoyed the workshop on "Grass Roots Organizing," led by Cheryl Wollin, where I learned about the 11-year struggle to get legislation passed to abolish the death penalty. At the dinner Friday evening we were entertained by Mary Ann Ahern, political reporter at NBC Chicago, who told many anecdotes about

her experiences with Mayor Daley and Rahm Emanuel. One convention highlight was the keynote speech on Saturday by the new LWVUS President, Elizabeth MacNamara. Her passion about the importance of the League's continuing battle to safeguard voters' rights as well as the struggle to keep Congress from gutting the Clean Air Act was truly inspiring.

At the two plenary sessions Saturday and Sunday, we discussed and passed the budget and the State League Program for the next two years. At the recommendation of the State Board, we approved a new study of the pension problems and proposals for pension reform in Illinois. Other issues the Illinois

League will focus on in the next two years are fiscal policy and tax reform, campaign finance and ethics reform, redistricting reform, immigration, climate change, and regulation of large-scale livestock facilities. Liz commented, "It was exciting to discuss state-wide issues and whether the League should take them on. I was proud to work for an organization that takes responsibility for social justice."

We hope many of you will want to join League members throughout the State in studying, educating the public, and advocating on these important issues.

Cindy Morehead



Jane
Cindy
Mary Ann
Ahern, political
reporter
for NBC
7 news,
at LWVIL
convention

Spotlight on League Achievement

At the biennial Convention, LWVIL shined a "Spotlight on League Achievement" on LWV-LFLB by recognizing its attractive and informative communications: appealing website, quarterly newsletter, monthly e-alert, community signs, and public access TV ads. Congratulations!

Lake County Redistricting Doesn't Benefit Residents

Under the leadership of LWV-Lake County, LWV-Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area worked with the Highland Park and Deerfield Leagues on the recent county redistricting. After the census, just as at the state and Congressional levels, the County must draw new county board districts.

In March, 2011 the Lake County Board established a Reapportionment Committee. The Leagues along with the Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund (MALDEF) and the NAACP were invited to be part of the process. League members attended a couple of meetings and gave testimony. David Stolman, Chairman of the Lake County Board, wanted to prevent a lawsuit, similar to the one MALDEF filed 10 years ago when the County did not comply with the Voting Rights Act. The Voting Rights Act requires the creation of districts that provide an opportunity for minorities to elect a candidate of their choice when certain conditions are met. It requires officials to consider race to help ensure that the redistricting plans do not dilute minority voting strength. Other requirements for redistricting include: equal population in each district, contiguous and compact districts, and the minimization of municipal and township fracturing.

Although the requirements of the Voting Rights Act were met, the Leagues, MALDEF, and NAACP were disappointed with the Reapportionment Committee. Contrary to the Lake County Leagues recommendations to County Board members, there was no public notification, no public hearings, and no transparency with the process. While Chairman Stolman stated politics would not be involved, the results show otherwise. There was gerrymandering throughout the county. Municipalities were fractured unnecessarily. Districts were not compact. Deerfield was divided into three different districts, with part of it added to the new district that includes most of Lake Forest

and part of Highland Park (District 12). Lake Bluff was separated from Lake Forest. Instead it will be in a district that extends all the way to Gages Lake (District 13). Lake Bluff with about 5,700 residents will have a minority voice in a district of 33,498 people. The Lake County Board approved the new map on June 14, 2011.

New Lake County Board Districts 12 and 13. Visit our website at www.LWV-LFLB.org for a link to the complete map.



The new map was not drawn to benefit the residents of Lake County. Instead, political maneuvering was used to help the majority party. As the Fair Map Amendment did not get on the ballot last fall, the League needs to continue to work towards a better redistricting process at all levels.

Action Spotlight: National and State

Leagues at various levels are taking action, making a difference and stirring up controversy over the issue of clean air. This spring the National League ran ads supporting the Clean Air Act. The ads were strong and named senators who voted to compromise

Here in Illinois, LWVIL Issues Specialist Laura Kratz testified at an EPA Hearing on Air Toxics Rule on May 24. Below are excerpts from her testimony.

... Since our national study on air pollution in the early 1970s, the League has actively supported federal air pollution controls on industrial production, governmental installations, fuels and vehicles. ... League members helped pass the landmark Clean Water Act in the early 1970s and have worked to protect, expand and strengthen it through the 1990s and we continue to do so in this century.

The materials the EPA provided in advance of this hearing do an excellent job laying out the health dangers associated with the toxics that are to be regulated once this rule is implemented. Mercury ingestion is a particular concern whether it is part of the air we breathe or in fish we eat from our local waters.

... Some industry officials are claiming that it is too expensive to change their methods of operation for the sake of cleaner air. But their failure to change results in high costs for others as families struggle to provide care and comfort to afflicted loved ones, health care systems are called upon to treat growing incidents of preventable ailments, businesses lose ailing workers, and schools deal with students whose health and cognitive abilities are not optimal due to pollution exposure. The costs to our society are enormous.

We believe that all Americans have the right

to the basic necessities of life: air, water, and food that is both clean and healthful. We also believe that it is the responsibility of governmental agencies such as the EPA to protect our environment and precious natural resources for our benefit and for the benefit of generations to come. ...

Laura Kratz, LWVIL Issues Specialist, reading her testimony before the EPA.



LWV-LC ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE

Our own Lake County League had a very busy year - so busy that we didn't have room for their report in this issue! You can read it online now at www.LWV-LFLB.org, and we'll print it in our Fall newsletter.

Spring Programs

The League had a very busy spring with a variety of activities appealing to a wide audience. The highlights are listed below. If you missed one of the programs, most of them have been videotaped and can be viewed on our website, www.LWV-LFLB.org.

In March, the League looked outside our national borders for interesting and timely programs. AAUW and Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Senior Center joined us in sponsoring "Cuba and the U.S.: Will They Ever Be Friends?" Dr. Alberto Coll, a well-known speaker, provided such a fascinating presentation that Jane Partridge is trying to organize a trip to Cuba for League members next winter.

Also in March, LWV-LFLB teamed up with other leagues on the North Shore and held luncheon at The Glen. Dr. Rachel Bronson, V.P. at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, spoke about the abysmal conditions in Afghanistan and other Middle East hot

Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, led off the panel discussion of "At Whose Cost? Our Children." Kathy Ryg, President of Voices for Illinois Children, and Kristi Long, President of United Way of Lake County, added their expertise. Even with the income tax increase, there remains a grave shortfall in funding state government.

To help educate voters for the April Consolidated General Elections, we provided a Video Voter Guide of the 12 candidates running for the three school boards. This proved to be a very popular tool.

Stay tuned for information about our coming fall programs and be sure to



Jane Partridge and attendees with Dr. Alberto Coll at the Cuba forum.



Kathy Ryg with Jane Partridge and Morehead.



Also in March: Cindy Morehead, Trude Rosell, and Ann Grant were among the LWV-LFLB members who attended the Women's History Month luncheon in Glenview.

Following up on our outstanding fall program, "Illinois' Fiscal Crisis," the L teamed up with Mothers Trust Fund to offer another look at the state's nomic problems. Ralph Martire, Executive

Interview With Congressman Robert Dold

On Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 1 p.m., representatives of 10th District Leagues met with U.S. Congressman Robert Dold. The meeting was chaired by Joan Kalsas of the Lake County League.



Ms. Kalsas explained that the League of Women Voters is a large organization, in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong and that there are 44 leagues in Illinois. She said that we are non-partisan, and advocate positions on issues but do not support specific candidates. The 15 league representatives then introduced themselves. Congressman Dold described himself as owner of a family business in pest management who grew up in this district. He has been a scoutmaster for 11 years and is an Eagle Scout himself.

Congressman Dold's priorities are Great Lakes protection, human rights, jobs and the economy, and reducing federal spending. Along with Democratic Congressman Lipinski, he introduced the Great Lakes Water Protection Act. It was referred to the Transportation Infrastructure Committee. It is also supported by US Senators Kirk and Durbin. On human rights, he introduced bills supporting the Bahais in Iran and recognizing the Armenian Genocide. On jobs and the economy, he supports pro-growth strategies for the private sector, not govern-

ment. He works with the nine Democratic freshmen on this, as well as the 86 other Republican freshmen. He wants only smart regulation of business, not constraining regulations such as the 1099 requirement for small business. He supported repeal of this requirement.

On spending reduction, Dold believes the Republican interests, e.g., in defense and agricultural subsidies, should be cut first, to show good faith to the Democrats. Every federal department should be cut except aid to Israel since it is our "only ally" in the Middle East. Dold believes overspending must be stopped by both parties "if the American dream is to come true for our children and grandchildren."

On the Clean Air Act, Dold said the EPA "fills a role" and that the carbon footprint must be reduced, but only in ways that don't put companies out of business. Some regulation is needed but it must pay off for business. He favors extension of the renewable energy tax credits due to expire in 2012.

On voting rights, Dold favors making it easier to vote. A signature, not a picture, should be required to identify voters. On transparency, due to the Citizens United decision, he fears that shell corporations are cropping up to enable rich individuals to influence elections.

On civility, i.e., partisan bickering, he seemed proud of working with Illinois Democrats (e.g., Gutierrez, Lipinski, etc.), the nine freshmen Democrats, and the "blue dog" Democrats on legislation. He said moderates like himself in Congress are rare due to redistricting that protects safe districts for both parties. He also said that

independent voters determine elections, and they will swing to the other party if incumbents don't produce. When asked about dissension within the Republican Party, he said that across-the-board cuts are needed but again, not in aid to Israel. This aid also must be audited to ensure that it doesn't go to terrorists (Hamas). He believes both parties are angry that the Administration didn't consult Congress before entering the conflict in Libya. He supported ending the Joint Strike Force Fighter program.

On the Affordable Health Care Act, he criticized the process by which it was written without Republican input more than the content. He said we need health care reform, citing that cost for health care in his company has risen 44% in a short period. He would replace/reform provisions rather than repeal it. He favors the preexisting conditions provision but wants malpractice reform and competition across state lines so that employers can purchase plans anywhere in the country.

Joan thanked Dold and told him that the League wants him to succeed. She promised many future requests to meet with him.

Liz Bradner, Recorder



LWVIL "State of the State" Luncheon

Charles Thomas, political reporter for ABC7 News, was the speaker at the annual State of the State Luncheon held by the LWV of Illinois on April 29th at the Union League Club in Chicago. Mr. Thomas is pictured here with Nancy Marcus, President of LWVIL.

Mr. Thomas's topic was "Reform"; this term usually implies a positive change, but he pointed out that it is often used to hide the

agenda. LWV-Lake Forest/Lake Bluff members enjoyed lunch and networking with members of many other Leagues. The League also enjoyed the signing of the bill to end the death penalty in Illinois.



Role of Federal Government in Public Education: League Study

Defining League Positions in Public Education

The League of Women Voters United States (LWVUS), through its positions on equality of opportunity, supports public education and a range of federal education programs. Areas where specific positions were developed are: integration, quality education, tuition tax credits, federal programs and education financing. Some programs are designed to meet the needs of special education students as well as the economically disadvantaged and ethnic minority students. The League worked for the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 that prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutes that receive federal aid. Historically, many state Leagues have their own positions that speak to equality, to funding, and to assessments and standards at the state level. Additionally the League, under its position on early intervention for children at-risk addresses issues related to the federal role in public education. To understand and reach consensus on the present and future role of the federal government in public education, it is important that we have some understanding of the history of the federal government's role in education activities. This paper and the links provided on the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org) delineate the materials that support this study.

Where Are We Now?

The United States has changed dramatically since the early debates on the role of public schools and the role of the federal government in supporting and sustaining them.

In Memoriam

The LWV community lost a long-time member and former president with the death of Paula DuBourdieu on May 7th. Paula joined the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest in 1983 (this was before the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Leagues merged) and served as secretary in 1983 and president in 1984-1986.

Paula packed a remarkable number of achievements into her term as president, including successfully lobbying for a study on Illinois public policy on mental health at the State convention almost single-handedly.

Paula's husband, Dave, held a memorial service on June 18th that was a unique tribute to a unique life. LWV-LFLB provided a booklet of excerpts of Paula's writing during her time on the board. Several League members attended the memorial.

The importance of education for the common good has shifted from primarily local control to state and national control, with national attention from the Federal government and national organizations. Congress is currently embroiled in a debate and stalemate over the reauthorization of ESEA, the 2001 NCLB. Major issues include the purpose and role of the federal government in education, funding, and the extent to which the federal government should play a role in public education. Areas for national debate involve school choice, accountability, teacher quality, goals, standards and above all, funding. Federal funding currently averages about 10 percent of local school

During the coming year, local and state Leagues across the United States will discuss the role of the federal government in public education with the goal of coming to consensus on a number of questions.

The Education Study scope is broad and includes the following areas under the role of the federal government in public education (pre-K through grade 12): the history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the common core standards/assessments which are required for many federal grant programs but are national, not federal. The culminating position will address only those issues delineated in the scope.

Watch for meetings in the fall. We will receive information and have time for discussion before we vote.

WHERE'S LWV-LFLB?

This summer, look for us in Lake Bluff's 4th of July Parade and again on August 3rd in the Lake Forest Day Parade. If you catch us in a photo, send it to contact@lwv-lfb.org. We may choose your photo to our new online photo gallery!



League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Jane Partridge	Co-President
Mary Mathews	Co-President
Ann Grant	Vice President, Voter Service
Tracy Burns	Vice President, Membership
Mary Ritter	Vice President, Membership
[Open]	Secretary
Liz Bradner	Treasurer

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Happie Datt	Program
Lisa Dietrich	Program
Cindy Morehead	Program
Jan Schnobrich	Voter Registration
Linda Bartmes	LWVLC Board Liaison
Midge Heurich	LMLWV Board Liaison

OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

Carol Gilbert	E-Alerts
Nicki Snoblin	Webmaster, Newsletter
Diane Sanderson	Newsletter

News and Activity From LWVIL

LWVIL - 2011 News from Springfield

Accomplished!

- Death Penalty Abolition Bill signed into law March 9 by Gov. Quinn!
- Redistricting Bill signed into law March 7 (provides for communities of interest but is weak in calling for an open public hearing process)

We have been watching many bills in the IL General Assembly and sent out the following Time For Actions (TFAs) to members or letters on the following:

- Feb. 15, 2011 – TFA to request legislators vote yes for SB3 (IL State Budget borrow \$8.7 billion to pay back bills)
- Feb. 23, 2011 – ENews that included a Take Action portion on asking Governor to sign Death Penalty Abolition Bill and to request legislators support SB 3 in order to pay Illinois' bills

- Feb. 23, 2011 – permission from LWVUS to sign on to an Environment IL letter going to our US Senators Kirk and Durbin asking them to oppose efforts to undermine Clean Air Act.
- Feb. 23, 2011 – permission from LWVUS to sign on to letter from Housing Action (Illinois) to our Illinois senators requesting them to oppose spending cuts to Federal Housing Programs.
- March 7, 2011 – TFA to contact legislators to support Campaign Contribution Limits for Legislative Leaders and Political Parties in the General Election
- March 9, 2011 – Letter to Editor (Tribune, Sun-Times, Daily Herald, State Journal-Register, and Pioneer Press) in support of the Clean Air Act at the request of LWVUS (signed by Nancy Marcus)
- March 9, 2011 – ENews to report signing of Death Penalty Abolition Bill and request

thank you's to Governor

- March 10, 2011 – TFA to ask state senators to oppose school voucher bill (SB 1932)
- March 21, 2011 – TFA on Health Care to Support H.B. 1501 and S.B. 1619
- March 22, 2011 – TFA to oppose HB 148 and SB 82 – Concealed Carrying of Weapons (CCW)
- April 5, 2011 – Letters to legislators from President Nancy Marcus opposing SB 79 charter schools
- April 12, 2011 – TFA to oppose SB 1932 School Voucher Bill

You, too, can be involved with these issues and more. Sign up for TIME FOR ACTION. It is easy to select an issue that moves you. State will provide information and calendars. To sign up simply go to www.LWVIL.org, and pull down the Take Action tab. Make a difference today!

National League Active!

The National League responds to federal legislation and decisions as they occur. The League's actions range from issuing statements to calling for action. Here is a sampling of recent actions.

- June 27, 2011 – Press Release. Despite poorly reasoned Supreme Court decision public financing of elections survives.
- June 21, 2011 – Press Release. Don't Terminate the Election Assistance Commission. (LWV Urges House to Oppose HR 672.)

June 16, 2011 – Letter to legislators from President Elisabeth MacNamara opposing HR 672, which would terminate the Election Assistance Commission.

June 16, 2011 – LWV issued ACTION ALERT: Tell the President You Don't Want to Breathe Smog. (Tell President Obama to fight for a strong smog standard to protect the health of all Americans, including those who are most vulnerable to air pollution --

our children and seniors.)

It is easy to sign up online to receive National Action Alerts. Go to www.LWV.org, Take Action tab. The National legislative watch list includes the following issues: CEDAW, Climate Change, Ethics, Immigration, Safe Drilling and Mining ("Fracking").

HOW TO FOLLOW A FEDERAL BILL

Track any bill in Congress:

Affordable Housing Update

The Housing Trust Fund Board has increased from 3 to 7, chaired by Mike Burns, and meets every second Tuesday from 7:00-9:00 a.m. Christa Donnelly and I have observed the last 2 months. However, we need help from those who can be early risers.

The board has heard the reports of what the hospital and Lake Forest College do to help their employees finance housing, and they have heard me reiterate the need for rentals for those already living in Lake Forest. It was suggested that the League or the City staff survey the city to see if there really is a need for affordable housing. Eight years ago

this is what we were discussing with Mayor Preschak. In reading Paula DuBourdieu's LWVLF president's letter of July 1985, I was interested that the League had surveyed the entire community to assess the housing needs of retirees and empty nesters then. Now 26 years later only five cottages have been built, primarily because of the leadership of Tom Tropp. More reports will be forthcoming, but don't hold your breath that any affordable housing will be built soon. It is the diligence of the interested parties that keep this issue alive in Lake Forest.

Respectfully, Jane

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome to new members Vicki K. Douvli, Susan Richardson and June Luvisi, all from Lake Forest. We're glad you joined.

New Membership Affair

Where do you go in the Lake Forest area to meet people who are willing to wrangle over the intricacies of public affairs? As our League friend Diane used to say, "There are many organizations that call to my heart, but the League engages my mind." If this describes you or your friends, come and bring them to the New Membership soiree in September. Watch for details!

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

P.O. Box 645

Lake Forest, IL 60045



Your brain has an engagement.



Engage your brain as well as your heart at our Fall Membership Event in September. Watch for details by mail and/or email. And be sure to check our website!

www.LWV-LFLB.org



A picture's worth a thousand words - and we've got LOTS of pictures on our website, along with up-to-date information on what

LWV-LFLB is doing.

Bookmark

**www.LWV-LFLB.org
and stay in touch!**



League Lines

OCTOBER 2011

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

We don't print their addresses and phone numbers here, since the newsletter goes online and we want to preserve their privacy, but these new members will be included in our membership directory, coming out soon.

Mary Jane Brady, Lake Bluff
Sandy Hart, Lake Bluff
Beth Coughlin, Lake Bluff

Thanks for joining us! We hope to see you at an event

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2011-12 ARE DUE NOW!

You can pay by credit card on our website, www.lwv-lfb.org, or mail in the membership form on page 7 along with your check. There's still time to be included in the Membership Directory if you act now!

Inside this issue:

- Summer Redux 2
- Membership Soiree Recap 3
- Our Legacy 3
- Federal Government's Role in Education 4
- Year-End Report/LWVLC 5
- LWVIL Highlights 6
- Membership Form 8

Welcome!

Thank you for being part of the League of Women Voters - Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area. We are looking forward to a great year and hope that you will want to play an active role: by attending events, donating your time and/or resources, and making suggestions. Our Board members work eagerly throughout the year.

Mary Ritter and Tracy Burns are the membership chairs and planned our yearly membership kickoff gathering. They send out the yearly membership renewal letters and follow-up. They also put together our membership directory and have it published. And year round, they think of ways to reach out to potential members.

Another dynamic duo: Cindy Morehead and Lisa Dietrich chair the program committee. They plan programs for members and the public throughout the year. They decide the topic, find appropriate speakers, determine the location, and many other details to finalize an interesting discussion. They have organized a committee for the national study, "What is the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education."

As we enter an election cycle, our voter service chair becomes very busy. Ann Grant is looking forward to the March primary. She will be organizing candidate forums to be held in February for contested



Membership co-chair Tracy Burns greeting members Marilyn Shineflug and Diane Sanders at the Membership Kickoff on September



Member Trude Roselle with voter service chair Ann Grant at the Membership Kickoff



Ed Johnson of LFTV with LWV-LFLB communications team members Diane Sanderson, Carol Gilbert, and Nicki Snoblin

local, state, and congressional races.

You can't vote if you haven't registered. Jan Schnobrich is our voter registration chair. She organizes voter registration drives and has a list of deputy registrars to

Our communications team keeps us all informed of upcoming events. Nicki Snoblin is our webmaster and newsletter publisher. Diane Sanderson is our newsletter editor. Carol Gilbert sends out those timely monthly e-alerts to your email addresses.

Liz Bradner is treasurer and tracks our money. She also works with the state League on our Education Fund and a number of other activities.

Linda Bartnes not only is the LWV-Lake County liaison but also is in charge of the fundraising event, the Holiday Luncheon in December (save the date - it will be December 9th this year). As you can imagine, there is a myriad of tasks involved in such an activity.

Our newest board member is Midge Heurich. She is liaison to the Lake Michigan League, which addresses environmental issues close to our hearts.

Co-President Mary Mathews handles publicity with press releases, letters-to-the-editor, and other outreach.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Now, for what we have planned so far for the year! As you know, we address issues at the international, national, state, and local levels.

Last year, Dr. Alberto Coll spoke about the US and Cuba relationship. This year, we were happy to have Dr. Ghada Talhami, who spoke about the Arab Spring Through the Eyes of Women. This kickoff membership event was held at the home of Kitty Cole, who was a gracious hostess. See page 3 to read more about Dr. Talhami's talk.

On the national level, our League with other local leagues will be concluding a study on the role of the federal government in public education. In November, we will have a general public meeting on this topic at the Highland Park Country Club. Ralph Martire, Roycealee Wood, Sue Hebson, and Kathy Ryg will serve as panelists. The following week, we will enjoy an afternoon tea at a private home, members only, to discuss and vote. These national studies are the backbone of our positions, which allow us

to advocate issues.

Last spring, a few local League leaders met with Congressman Dold. It is our goal to have a public meeting with Congressman Dold for the community. We also have legislative updates from our state elected officials during the year.



Member Christa Donnelly with Kitty Cole, host of the Membership Kickoff on September 7th

The annual Holiday Luncheon will be on Friday, December 9th. Watch for your invitation.

A program on women's health policy will be scheduled later this winter. And, of course, we have the candidate forums before the March primary to look forward to.

Locally we advocate for clean air and monitor the city's plan for affordable housing.

Some of our plans and programs are still in a formative state. Watch our website, www.lwv-illb.org, *League Lines*, and LWV e-alerts for more information. Also, if you missed something from last year, videos of our programs and publications are posted on our website.

We appreciate the many members who have helped so much in the past. If you are interested in more information about helping one of the above committees or at a specific activity, please contact Mary Mathews, contact@lwv-illb.org. We can use your help for a day, a task, or the year.

It is going to be a great year with your support! Stay tuned.

—Jane Partridge, Co-President

Summer Redux

The summer is over now, but it was busy! The State Convention in June was energizing with addresses by LWVUS President Elisabeth McNamara and NBC political reporter Mary Ann Ahern. Liz Bradner, Mary Mathews, Cindy Morehead, and Jane Partridge represented our League. We were impressed with Jan Dorner, the new LWVIL president. The central study for this year will be the role of the federal government in public education. See the article on page 4.

Carol Gilbert, Ann Grant, and Mary Mathews did us proud in the Lake Bluff July 4th parade. The Lake Forest Day

parade, celebrating 150th anniversary of the founding of Lake Forest, included our entry representing the history of women's suffrage and the founding of the League over the same time period. What a history it has been! Nicki and Amelia Snoblin carried the League banner in front of our three-vehicle entourage. Co-president Jane Partridge led in a "surrey with the fringe on top" (a replica of a 1901 Oldsmobile).

Liz Bradner, who provided the vehicle, also rode in it along with Jean Brown, all dressed as suffragettes. Past President Carol Gilbert, in a fabulous hat, followed on her motor scooter. A sporty convertible driven by Deidre Ekholm carried Christa Donnelly and three girls, ages from seven to eleven, as our "Little Leaguers." Nine young girls carried signs with the names of the League presidents over the last twenty years and signs celebrating the local women who have made

contributed so much to life in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff.

Our well-attended membership event on September 7th at Kitty Cole's lovely home featured Professor Ghada Talhami from Lake Forest College talking about "The Arab Spring Through the Eyes of Women." See page 3 for a

—Jane Partridge and Mary Mathews, Co-Presidents



Jean Brown and Jane Partridge as dedicated suffragettes

Carrying our banner proudly!



Some of the Little Leaguers at the Lake Forest Day parade



Membership Soiree a Memorable Evening

Kitty Cole graciously opened her home for this year's Membership Soiree on September 7th. The event kicked off a new year of interesting and varied League activities. Members reconnected with old friends and had the opportunity to meet some new members and many guests. All were anxious to hear our speaker, Dr. Ghada Talhami, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Politics at Lake Forest College.



in civil society demonstrate.

There are some Western influences in play. Middle Eastern women educated in the US and Europe are comfortable with varying mores, and Ghada says, "Education is always a factor; it's revolutionizing." When elitist movements open the door, then other classes benefit. One of the modernizing pressures is "state feminism" evidenced by maternity leave and retirement benefits for women. Ghada



Dr. Ghada Talhami speaking to the audience.

Dr. Talhami presented a capsule sketch of the "The Arab Spring Through the Eyes of Women." Ghada is now resident Professor of Politics at Lake Forest College, also the daughter of a diplomat, and certainly a child of the world since she is a Jordan-born Palestinian. One of many intriguing asides from this remarkably accomplished woman was to note that the holocaust victimized Palestinians, too, who were displaced by the newly created Israel.

Ghada explained the term *Arab Spring* as a Western media creation bundling permutations characteristic of each country. With the exception of Syria, the Arab Spring movements are fueled by civil society, not military power. Turkey, now an Islamic government, is moving away from secularism. But there the "Spring" movement is fueled by an entrepreneurial class aiming for a viable identity in the European market. Ghada postulates that "women and minorities are the hope of democracy," as these activist movements based

characterized Arab feminism as an expression of urbanity and civilization.

Feminism also may have different connotations in Eastern and Western societies. The Americanized version is characterized by an emphasis on individual rights. By contrast, these Middle Eastern countries emphasize society over the individual, and women are agitating over collective community issues. The "Arab Spring," as described by Ghada, is certainly transformative. But Ghada's images were not of terrorists or radical Islamists. Instead, she exclaimed "Women! Google! Facebook! ... once you mobilize Islamic women you find out they have an agenda of their own!"

Big thanks go to Dr. Talhami, Kitty Cole, and all who made this evening so enjoyable. If you were not able to attend, Dr. Talhami's presentation was videoaped and can be seen on our website, www.lfw-lflb.org, on LFTV channel 17 or 19, and also on the LFTV page on YouTube.



Dr. Ghada Talhami speaking to the audience.



Dr. Talhami speaking to the attentive audience

Our Legacy: A Historical Perspective on Our League

Women gained the right to vote in 1920 after 70 years of struggle to convince first the U.S. Government and then individual states to ratify the 19th Amendment. Their non-violent battle is an inspirational tale of which many today are unaware. Women have similarly played a prominent role in Lake Forest/Lake Bluff. Taking on a host of challenges, they founded organizations dedicated to the preservation of open space and the care of the ravines. Many of the Leagues studies and advocacy have led directly or indirectly to the formation of garden clubs, the Preservation Foundation, the Compre-

hensive Plan for Lake Forest, studies of local youth problems and recreational needs, an elected school board, the caucus system for candidates in local elections, and a long list of efforts on behalf of education and advocacy for good non-partisan public policy.

As I have worked on the LWV-LFLB history spanning more than 85 years during the past year, I have been overwhelmed with our League's studies and advocacy. With the help of Nicki and Amelia Snoblin, been compiling a complete history two local Leagues, which joined in 1989.

When it is complete, our history will be available at the Historical Society for the Legacy Project celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the city of Lake Forest. If any of you have information stories to add, please contact me.

To think that Alice Hixon of Lake Forest was the first treasurer of the national League in 1926 and our local League had 250 members! That is our challenge today!

—Jane Partridge, Co-President

So, What Is the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education?

That's the question we, along with Leagues across the nation, hope to help answer. Your input is needed, so ...

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday, November 2, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Public Panel Discussion

Highland Park Country Club

1201 Park Avenue West, Highland Park

LWV-LFLB, Highland Park LWV, and Deerfield LWV will meet to discuss "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education." An outstanding panel of speakers will address various aspects of the subject. Ralph Martire, Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, will talk about funding and equity

issues. Roycelee Wood, Lake County Regional Superintendent of Schools, and Sue Hebson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for High School District 113 in Highland Park, will talk about Common Core Curriculum Standards. Kathy Ryg, former Illinois state representative and current president of Voices for Illinois Children, will speak about early childhood education.

This event will be open to the public, and we urge you to invite your friends, especially those with children in public schools, so they can become informed about the many ramifications of federal aid to education.

Monday, November 7, 1:30 pm
Members-Only Consensus Meeting
Home of Cindy Morehead, Lake Bluff

League members will gather for tea and cookies and a lively discussion of the consensus questions regarding the study of the role of the federal government in education. Please read the background papers posted on the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org) and also attend the panel discussion on November 2nd (see above) so that you can be an informed participant in this important discussion. Call Cindy or any other board member, or email contact@lwv-lflb.org, for the location.

Celebrating 91 Years of the Power of the Vote

This commentary on the anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, by Co-President Jane Partridge, was published in Pioneer Press.

August 26 marked the 91st anniversary of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. The nonpartisan League of Women Voters—founded the same year—celebrated Women's Equality Day by reflecting on the organization's historic achievements and looking ahead to the work League members will do this year to engage more citizens in the electoral process.

"On this Women's Equality Day, we take time to recognize not only the historic 19th Amendment, but the tremendous progress the League has made over the last 91 years in expanding and protecting voting rights," said local League president Jane Partridge. "Generation after generation, the work of League members across the country is a testament to the incredible legacy of the power of the vote."

"Our foremothers understood that if you don't vote, you don't count," Partridge continued. "League members are continuously working to get more citizens to exercise their right to vote, to ensure that there are not barriers for individuals to exercise this fundamental right,

and that every vote is counted."

"Members of our local League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area have worked for over 85 years to safeguard democracy through its voter registration efforts, educational forums, and local advocacy," Jane Partridge said. "As a League member, you have the opportunity to have a profound, direct and positive impact on the issues that matter most to our community."



The LWV-LFLB will register voters this fall, provide candidate forums in February, and offer public policy programs throughout the year. For information on upcoming events, or to learn how to become a member of the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area, visit www.lwv-lflb.org. Learn more about the League nationally at www.lwv.org. The League

of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women of all ages. With 850 affiliates across the country, the League is one of the nation's most trusted organizations.

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

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Carol Gilbert	E-Alerts
Nicki Snoblin	Webmaster, Newsletter
Diane Sanderson	Newsletter

Year-End Report from LWV of Lake County

The LWVLC submitted this report early in the summer, but we couldn't fit it in our last newsletter. But we couldn't fit it in our last newsletter. But we couldn't fit it in our last newsletter. But we couldn't fit it in our last newsletter.

This past year has been an interesting one for LWV-Lake County.

In late summer, our voter registration drives continued in a number of Lake County high schools. The largest number of new voters was garnered at Warren Township High School with a total of 60. League members also registered voters at North Chicago High School, Waukegan High School, and Zion-Benton Township High School. This spring for the first time, League members registered students at the Lake County High Schools Technology Campus.

We held three candidate forums with two in the fall and one in the spring. AAUW co-sponsored our first forum on Oct. 7, 2010 at Waukegan City Hall. Candidates were running for State Representative-60th District, Lake County Board-8th District, Lake County Clerk, Lake County Sheriff, and Lake County Regional Superintendent of Schools. The schedule was thrown off by candidates who were not present at the pre-established time. Otherwise, the forum went smoothly.

Our second candidate forum received national attention. The forum was held on Oct. 20th and was co-sponsored by the host, Grayslake High School District 127. Candidates were running for the 8th Congressional District, 31st State Senate, and 62nd State Representative. One of the Congressional candidates tried to dominate the forum through his own actions and that of his followers in the audience. There was much fallout from the media and blogs. Recently civil behavior has been in short supply at many public meetings. LWVIL and LWVUS were notified of a number of instances at candidate forums throughout the state and country. The League is suggesting ways to prepare for contentious meetings. After the Congressional candidates left, there were no difficulties with the State Senate or State Representative candidates. Pairing up with AAUW again, the spring candidate forum was held on March 31,



A beautiful garden at the home of Linda Barnes, where the LWVLC annual meeting was held

2011 for the Waukegan Community Unit School District #60 school board. There were five candidates for the three open seats. The school district had requested our help and was pleased with the process and turnout.

Our League is part of the Lake County Womens Coalition. This year the Coalition Board decided to honor women who had been integral to the foundation of the member organizations. Sally Zeit was our well-deserved honoree at the brunch held March 26, 2011. LWVLC arranged an interview with Congresswoman Dold and invited other Leagues in the 10th Congressional District to participate. Past President Joan Kalsas directed the crowd of 13 Leagues through the hour-long meeting. Liz Bradner from LWV-Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area provided

This June, we sent Rosemary Heilemann, LWV-Deerfield, to the LWVIL Convention, which was held in Skokie. She learned a lot and can't wait to increase her involvement. She already has started observing the Lake County Board meetings.

The last few months, LWVLC has been very prominent in Lake County redistricting. We not only worked with the local 1 of Deerfield, Highland Park/Highway and Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area, but consulted with Karen Carstens, President of NAACP, and Elisa Alfonso, Redistricting Coordinator of MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund). Our members spoke at meetings with County Board commissioners, wrote letters to the editor to several newspapers, emailed Lake County Board commissioners, and finally testified at both the Redistricting Com-

mittee meeting and Lake County Board Meeting. Unfortunately, politics won. The process was not transparent, the public was not notified, and there was no public input. The map did comply with the Voting Rights Act by drawing four districts with a majority of minority residents. Also, the number of districts was reduced from 23 to 21, a step that the League supported. However, the districts were gerrymandered. Areas were targeted for fracturing, and communities of interest were divided. Deerfield had been in one district; now it was divided into three. Lake Forest and Lake Bluff had been in one district; they also were divided into three districts. Deerfield and Lake Bluff will be swallowed up within larger, dissimilar districts resulting in very little representative in Lake County government.

Members continue to serve on the Lake County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee and monitor criminal justice developments. The lack of funding hinders improvements.

Transportation and land use issues continue to concern the Lake County League. Members monitor the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. We submitted a comment regarding the draft of the GO TO 2040 comprehensive regional plan. LWVLC supports efforts to improve regional transportation with more emphasis and money directed toward transit and public transportation rather than building more roads.

Last, but very important, we lost one of our long-time members and directors, Marge Blake Reaume, on March 11, 2011. She had been a member of the Highland Park League. Marge was very active in environmental and transportation issues both on the LWVLC board and with other organizations. We miss her.

SAVE THE DATE ...
Friday, December 9th ...



for our annual Holiday Luncheon. Who will Barbara Rinella be this year? Watch for more information in our e-alerts, on our website, and in the mail.

Highlights from LWVIL

For more information on activities of the LWV of Illinois, please visit their website at www.lwvil.org.

CONTINUING LAWSUIT NEWS COVERAGE

On September 1, 2011 the League of Women Voters of Illinois amended the redistricting lawsuit to focus solely on the redistricting of the Illinois General Assembly. The original suit sought to overturn both the Illinois Congressional and General Assembly maps. However, the claims regarding these maps were split into separate cases by the U.S. District Court in Chicago. Jan Dörner, LWVIL President, said, "We believe that pursuing the case against the General Assembly redistricting process and resulting map is the wisest use of our resources and the resources of the federal court."

The gerrymandering that both political parties have engaged in for decades has resulted in districts so tilted to one political party or the other and so rigged to guarantee the re-elections of favored incumbents that voters in Illinois seldom have real choices in our elections. The League of Women Voters of Illinois is represented in this matter by the Chicago law firm Despres Schwartz and Geoghegan Ltd.

The LWVIL 2011 convention adopted a study of the Illinois Pension System, with the goal of developing a position on types of sustainable pension systems, appropriate for Illinois, and reforms the League would recommend consistent with the language and wording of the Illinois constitution. The Issues Committee will coordinate this study and needs committee members to

get started. To volunteer for this committee please contact Laura Kratz, Vice President for Issues.

UPCOMING LWVIL EVENTS

Leadership Rap:

Saturday, September 24, 10:00 - 1:00 pm
In the conference room at LWVIL offices, 332 S. Michigan.

Lake Michigan League meeting:

SAVE THE DATE in Illinois,
October 21-23.

LWVIL Fundraiser:

"Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me," live taping
October 13, 7:00-9:30 pm
Chase Bank Auditorium
10 S. Dearborn, Chicago

A Few Miscellaneous Notes

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE US ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

(Visit www.lwv.org for more information)

- League Marks 10th Anniversary of 9/11 Attacks
- League Asks House to Promise to Protect Public Health
League President Elisabeth MacNamara sent a letter to the House of Representatives asking them to make the promise to protect public health through clean air standards.
- League Opposes Cantor Agenda
The League and coalition groups sent a letter to the House of Representatives opposing the suite of bills contained in House Majority Leader Eric Cantor's legislative agenda memo that would block the Clean Air Act's ability to clean-up life-threatening pollution.
- League Disappointed by President Obama's Ozono Retreat

A CHANCE TO MEET WITH CONGRESSMAN DOLD

The Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Senior Center is hosting Congressman Robert Dold on Tuesday, September 27, at 11:00 am. Reservations are required; call the Senior Center at 847-234-2209.

"THE GREEN THING"

Here's one of those things that's been going around by email ... it hit home for some of our members ... thought you might enjoy it, whatever your generation:

In the line at the store, the young cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized to him and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation didn't care enough to save our environment."

True, our generation didn't have the "green thing" in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts—wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that older lady was right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house—not a TV in every room. And the TV had a screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not the size of the state of Montana.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water.

Back then, people took the bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Email: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$65 |
| Benefactor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 | Senior Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 |
| Advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 | Student Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 |
| Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Associate Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 |
| Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 | <i>(non-voting: for non US Citizens or less than 18 years old)</i> | |

You may go to our website
www.lwv-lflb.org to pay by
 credit card or you may write a
 check payable to LWV-LFLB.
 Dues are not deductible for
 income tax purposes

☐ Although the League Lines newsletter is posted in color on our website, www.lwv-lflb.org I prefer to receive it by mail.

I would also like to make a separate tax-deductible donation to the LWV Education Fund of \$_____
 (Make Check Payable to LWV Education Fund)

MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

Please mark your area of expertise/interest to be published in the directory (rank top two selections).

Local Issues

- ☐ Affordable Housing
☐ Nominating Systems
☐ Observer Corp
☐ Other _____

State Issues

- ☐ Transportation
☐ Fiscal Policy
☐ Gun Control
☐ Campaign Finance Reform
☐ Other _____

National & International

- ☐ Immigration
☐ Clean Air
☐ Water
☐ Federal Government Role In Education
☐ Health Care
☐ Women's Issues
☐ U.S. Relations
☐ Other _____

☐ I am interested in participating in the
 Great Decisions Discussion Group

I WANT TO HELP

- Voter Services: ☐ Serve on planning committee for candidate forums in February 2012
☐ Help on day of forum
- Voter Registration: ☐ Serve on planning committee ☐ Help register voters
- Programs: ☐ Serve on program committee and help plan programs
☐ Help set-up the day of event
- Publicity: ☐ Write press releases ☐ Write articles for newsletter
- Other: ☐ Host a meeting in my home
☐ Help with Annual Meeting Packet in April
☐ Other _____

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

PO Box 840
Lake Forest, IL 60045



www.LWV-LFLB.org
... check it often!



DON'T MISS ...

- September 27 Meet with Congressman Dold
Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Senior Center,
11:00 am (call for reservations)
- November 2 The Role of the Federal Government
in Public Education
Highland Park County Club, 7 pm
- November 7 Consensus meeting
Cindy Morehead's home, 1:30 pm
- December 9 Holiday Luncheon
The Grille on Laurel
Details to come

**MYSTERY QUOTE
OF THE DAY**

***"Women! Google! Facebook! ...
once you mobilize Islamic women
you find out they have an agenda
of their own!"***

Who said that? Find out on page 3.

SPECIAL INSERT: THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

This fall, Leagues across the nation are participating in the study and consensus process for a position on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education.

You are likely aware that there are some big changes being discussed for our public schools across the nation. Since the LWVUS currently has no position on this issue, we will not be able to support or oppose, or even comment on the proposals.

Congress has been considering the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which includes the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). While NCLB is credited with raising the awareness that some children were being left behind, the act is generally viewed as a failure. In fact, by 2014, the year that all schools in the US should be 100% compliant, it is anticipated that most, if not all, will not meet AYP (adequate yearly progress). NCLB does not recognize growth if it does not meet the benchmark, and the emphasis on standardized testing does not allow for a critical thinking curriculum or measure a child's progress beyond the test scores.

Find the Materials

On the Web at www.lwv.org

- Click For Members
- Click Programs & Projects
- Under Task Forces & Studies, click The Education Study

You will find a description of the study, Leaders Guide, some Executive Summaries, background information, a webinar, and more.

Is there a better way than ESEA to improve the learning skills and knowledge of our students? Does ESEA need to be changed? Without a consensus on this issue, we as League members will have our hands tied and will not be able to comment or encourage a change in the ESEA.

While Congress recognizes the flaws in the Act, they have not acted to change it, which leaves the current law in place. Will League members be satisfied to reduce themselves to bystanders if this act stands or new proposals are worse? We think it's time for us to do our homework so we can be advocates!

What Is a Consensus?

Consensus is not a vote. It is a mutual agreement of League members who have arrived at the agreement through discussion. During discussion, everyone has an opportunity to voice her or his viewpoint, and the issue is examined from all sides. Consensus questions provide structure for the meeting. Members discuss the pros and cons until it becomes clear that consensus has or has not been reached on each question.

Each local League will have a discussion leader to help keep the group focused on the task at hand. When consensus is reached, it must be approved by the local board before being posted on the LWVUS website.

The LWVUS Board of Directors will approve the official position on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education by March of 2012.

Taking a Look at the History of Education in the US

The federal government began giving land grants to build schools back in the late 1700s. In the 1800s Congress granted surplus funds to states for public education. Into the 1900s colleges were receiving grants, and the GI Bill was a boon to soldiers returning from war.

Special education was mandated, and many handicapped children were in school for the first time. Programs like Head Start recognized the importance of getting children at risk into school early. As we headed into the 21st century, talk began on national standards and grants became more competitive. Reform was the new focus of our education system. Accountability looms large as laws like No Child Left Behind have high-stakes consequences for struggling schools.

The Research Has Already Been Done

League members have put together some very impressive research and it is available on the LWVUS website. We do not have to reinvent the wheel on this; all we have to do is read. **You might want to read the consensus questions (see attached) before reading the materials so you can keep in mind which information will factor into your consensus discussions.** This is a hot topic right now, and there is a lot of education news in our newspapers and on our local media. If we have children in public schools, or grandchildren, or if we live in a house in a neighborhood, we should be very interested in the quality of our local public schools. Nothing impacts the value of our homes or our comfort zone like the schools in our neighborhood. We need to be aware of the changes being proposed so we can speak up when our support is needed.

How You Can Help

Start viewing the research material on the LWVUS website (See "Find the Materials" on page 1). Talk to your friends and neighbors and invite them to join you in the study. Only League members can participate in the consensus, but the study will be very informative. The changes being proposed will likely have a big impact on our local public schools for some to come.

Attend and bring friends to our panel discussion on Wednesday, November 2 (7:00 - 9:00 pm at Highland Park Country Club, 1201 Park Avenue West, Highland Park). You'll be able to hear the experts address our consensus topics and be better prepared for the consensus meeting. Then be sure to come to the consensus meeting on Monday, November 7, at 1:30 pm at the home of Cindy Morehead (14 Forest Hills Road, Lake Bluff) - and bring your opinions!

Let's get informed so we can have a discussion with our Congressmen about what's best for our next generation.

Important Meeting Dates

Wednesday, November 2
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Public Panel Discussion
Highland Park Country Club
1201 Park Avenue West,
Highland Park

Monday, November 7
1:30 pm

Members-Only Consensus Meeting

Home of Cindy Morehead,
14 Forest Hills Rd., Lake Bluff
**RSVP to Cindy at 847-
295-6470 by November 2**

Need a ride to either meeting? Call Cindy Morehead at 847-295-6470 or Mary Mathews at 847-295-1494.

LWV Public Education Study Consensus Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. The current role of the federal government in public education is:
[Much too small / too small / about right / too large / much too large]
 2. What should be the role of the federal government in public education? [Rank]
 - a. To ensure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.
 - b. To develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so that they achieve adequate yearly progress.
 - c. To mandate Common Core Standards for all students K-12.
 - d. To monitor state efforts for funding
 - e. To measure teacher effectiveness through test data.
- A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.
[Strongly agree / Agree / No consensus / Disagree / Strongly disagree]

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

- Currently the governors and state education officers have developed Common Core Standards that are national but not federal. Should the standards be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding? [Choose one]
- a. Special grant programs such as Race to the Top
 - b. All programs under Elementary and Secondary Education Act where the needs qualify for funding.
 - c. All programs receiving federal funding from any source
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above
5. Should there be a **national assessment aligned** with the common cores standards? [Yes / No]
- If Yes, Should implementation be voluntary or federally mandated? (choose one)
- a. Voluntary
 - b. Mandated
 - c. Mandated, if fully funded
- If No, what other accountability measures might you suggest? (choose one)
- a. Continue to allow the states to develop their own assessments.
 - b. Suggest that the local education districts use their own assessments or adopt one that is a nationally norm-referenced assessment such as the *Stanford Achievement Test* or *Iowa Test of Basic Skills*.
 - c. Suggest that districts use a portfolio type of assessment where student projects and activities would be scored holistically
- National standards should lead to: (choose one)
- a. A nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessments.
 - b. A national curriculum that is only suggested but not mandated.
 - c. A suggested structure for states and local education agencies to develop their own curriculum.
 - d. No national curriculum.
- What role should the national assessment consortia play in student evaluation? [Rank]
- a. Provide an assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
 - b. Provide comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
 - c. Provide criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
 - d. Provide information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.
 - e. Provide diagnostic information on each child.

8. Data from the national assessments are often difficult for parents, teachers and others to understand. If we have a national assessment, what information is most important to be reported to parents, teachers, students and the community? [Choose one]
- Data should be "norm referenced" (where students are ranked) for district comparison only.
 - Data should be "criterion referenced" and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.
 - Data should be used to determine "cut" scores knowing if students have mastered requirements for special grade levels.
9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to: [Choose one]
- Sanction schools not measuring up to the specific levels
 - Reward schools that achieve high scores
 - Rank teachers based on student test score data
 - Reward teachers who have exemplary scores
 - Inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

FUNDING AND EQUITY

10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/Any Schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. However, competitive grants are now being proposed to states/districts who meet certain federal requirements, such as Race to the Top. Which would be appropriate: [Choose one]
- Non-competitive funding for all applicants meeting requirements
 - A combination of non-competitive and competitive grants
 - Competitive grants only
 - No federal funding
11. If the federal government's role is the concern of the "common good" then: [Choose one]
- Mandates only should be sanctioned.
 - Mandates and funding should both be provided.
 - Funding should be provided through grants only.
 - A combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.
 - No mandates should be required and limited grants for innovation available.
12. Equity in public education means equitable access to: [Rank]
- high quality teaching/learning
 - adequate and current learning materials
 - clean and well maintained physical facilities
 - food and health care
 - safe and secure neighborhoods
 - secure housing
13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered "categorical" rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes. ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.
[Strongly agree / Agree / No consensus / Disagree / Strongly disagree]
14. The federal government has a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to 5, for all children?
[Strongly agree / Agree / No consensus / Disagree / Strongly disagree]
15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (e.g. Head Start, Title I, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education and support regarding child development, child health and nutrition, and access to other supportive services, such as mental health as needed.
[Strongly agree / Agree / No consensus / Disagree / Strongly disagree]

This funding should be extended to: [All children / only those with special needs / special needs first]

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Tom Meskel, Grayslake
Dewey Caton, Lake Bluff
Anne Sorensen, Lake Bluff
Leigh Ann Charlott, Lake Bluff

Thanks for joining us!

Membership directories for 2011-2012 will be available at the Holiday Luncheon on December 9th. Be sure to pick yours up!

From the Co-Presidents

The Fall has been full. The new membership event in September at Kitty Cole's lovely home Professor Ghada Talhami from Lake Forest College speaking on the "The Arab Spring as Seen Through the Eyes of Women" was well attended. In October Senator Susan Garrett and Representative Karen May spoke to our group about the "State of the State" and told us about their not running in the next election. Congressman Robert Dold declined our invitation.

Our focus in November was "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education?" It was a study and consensus at the national, state, and local level. On November 2, the LWW-LFLB joined with Highland Park and Deerfield at the Highland Park Country Club for a panel discussion on the topic. Our speakers, Ralph Martire, Sue Hebson, and Kathy Ryg, were very informative and the meeting was well attended (see Carol Gilbert's report in this newsletter). This program was taped and is available on LFTV as well as our website: www.LWW-LFLB.org. Then on November 7 we met at Cindy Morehead's house for the consensus, where we hammered out the effectiveness of the No Child Left Behind legislation that will be coming up for extension or modification soon.

We had a new member meeting at Jane's on

November 18. We were pleased to have an opportunity to orient our new members to what the League does.

We have received many supportive comments about our essay on the importance of civility in our public discourse, which was published in Gazebo News, Patch, and the Lake Forester. It is reprinted here on page 6.

We hope you all can come to the Holiday Luncheon in December. Invite a new member!

Looking toward 2012, we have planned a program on Women's Health on January 29 at a private home; candidate forums for the local, state, and federal governments in February; and a Valentine's Day Tea which was enjoyed last year. The Womens History Month luncheon and speaker and a program on the future of water resources will be coming in March. In April we'll be studying the role of privatization in government. And the Annual Meeting will be in May. Become involved in whatever way you choose.

We wish you a happy Thanksgiving and December holiday season and hope to see you at the December 9th luncheon.

Jane Partridge and Mary Mathews
Co-Presidents

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- Join Us for Capitol Steps! 7

Have you sent in your reservation yet?

It's the event we anticipate all year ... our annual Holiday Luncheon! Join us on December 9th at the Grille on Laurel for a delightful few hours of catching up with fellow League members, enjoying a delicious Grille lunch, and hearing a dramatic storytelling presentation by Megan Wells. Ms Wells will present "Winter Around the World: Myths and Folktales for the Season."

The event starts at 10:30 a.m. with socializing, and the presentation will begin at 11:00. Cost is \$45. Be sure to make your reservation for this popular event by Tuesday, December 6th.

Lake Forest Bookstore will have a selection of books available for purchase. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to LWW-LFLB.

This luncheon is funded by the LWW-LFLB Education Fund, and \$18 of the ticket cost is a tax-deductible donation to the LWW Ed Fund.

Questions? Call Linda Barmes at 847-234-7069. We hope to see you there!



Megan Wells

Forum on Federal Role in Public Education

As part of LWVUS' process to create a new education position, the local Leagues are participating in consensus, which is an education and discussion process. To help guide the conversation, LWV-ILFB along with the Leagues of Highland Park/Highwood and Deerfield sponsored an informative panel discussion on "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education" on November 2nd. Speakers addressed issues of funding and equity, standards, and early childhood education.

Though public education is generally a state prerogative, the federal government has participated throughout U.S. history. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act was passed in 1965 as a part of the war on poverty, a companion to many civil rights initiatives of the era. Reauthorized every five years, the most recent iteration of ESEA is known as No Child Left Behind. Unfortunately, the benchmarks established there are not widely valued. Common criticisms of ESEA include objections to federal intrusion into state-led programs, a multiplicity of unfunded federal mandates, and an unrewarding focus on standardized testing and teacher evaluations.

Addressing learning standards, Dr. Sue Hebson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for High School District 113 in Highland Park, stated the 2001 No Child Left Behind initiative "brought subpopulations into focus"

by establishing a national metric. A new initiative called Common Core Standards has now been adopted by 46 states, including Illinois. Sponsored by state-led organizations, the Common Core Standards allow individual states to develop their own assessments. It is hoped that the new standards will provide "a richer way of looking at assessment data" and better opportunities for schools to assess improvement and access funding.

Kathy Ryg, President of Voices for Illinois Children, emphasized the strong correlation between poverty and low academic opportunity. Reduced funding for preschoolers is a concern since early intervention has proven effective. Stating that 3rd-grade reading levels are a benchmark indicator of future success, Kathy said it is "essential to catch the high-risk kids early." The 2010 census information shows that one in five Illinois children, or 600,000 children, are at poverty level. In the largest school districts that figure shoots from 20% of the population to 70%. Kathy agrees that the number one goal of any assessment program should be "career and college readiness."

Ralph Martire, Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, also stated that funding in public education is the biggest barrier to higher achievement overall and to parity between districts. In the state of Illinois the local schools' tax revenue is tied directly to local property taxes and is not a function of educational needs statewide. This results in districts that score the highest in the world, but the converse is true, too. Districts with high poverty and low tax revenue score at the bottom. Martire says, "Without the Feds it's game over for U.S. education!"

LWVUS' drive to craft a new position on federal education policies will enable future advocacy not only nationally but for every local league too. A spirited question and answer



Panelists Martire, Hebson, and Ryg

session followed the panelists' presentations. The last word was from educator and local League President Jane Partridge, who said, "More testing is not the answer!" Jane went on, "Although national goals or benchmarks should be guidelines, a student is so much more than a test score. How each student learns and grows through the year, which depends upon health, maturation, economic advantages, etc. as well as classroom learning, is most important. And with too much testing, valuable teaching time is lost."

Video of the forum can be seen on our website (www.lwv-ilfb.org), or on LFTV at the following times:

Mondays, 10 a.m.
Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
Fridays, 10 a.m.
Saturdays, 3 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOTER REGISTRARS

Our deputy voter registrars will be registering voters over the next few months. If you would like to help, please call Jan Schnobrich.

Monday, January 30, 2012
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Lake Forest Place

Saturday, February 4, 2012
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lake Forest Library

Wednesday, February 8, 2012
11:30 a.m.

Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Senior Center

Saturday, February 11, 2012
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lake Bluff Library

Attendees listen attentively to the presentation by Ralph Martire



Follow-up on the LWVUS Education Study Consensus Process

Following the meeting on November 2nd at Highland Park Country Club, which we sponsored together with LWV of Highland Park and LWV of Deerfield, a good percentage of our membership came to a consensus meeting on November 7th to discuss and come to consensus on the questions posed by LWVUS. We had a lively discussion, aided by the PowerPoint presentation prepared by the LWVUS, and very ably led by Melanie Rummel. During the three-hour discussion we were able to come to consensus on all 15 questions.

We owe a big thank you to Melanie



Melanie Rummel (left) leads the group in the consensus process

Rummel, who did a terrific job of keeping the discussion focused. Roycealee Woods presented information on common core standard and Liz Bradner on equity and funding. I would also like to thank Nicki Snoblin for designing and printing the programs for the panel discussion on November 2nd as well as for the delicious cake she brought to the consensus meeting. Other members of the education committee – Liz Roycealee, Lisa Dietrich, and Stacy Vermilyen – deserve thanks for all their help in planning these events.

—Cindy Morehead

State of the State Report From Our Legislators

On Friday, October 14, State Senator Susan Garrett and State Representative Karen May spent an hour and half giving their perspectives on current legislation in Springfield. The Leagues really program with legislators always prompts a lot of questions. This year was no different.

One subject of concern to both legislators and audience members was ComEd. Senator Garrett and Rep. May felt strongly about ComEd and the damage and loss of service caused by the summer storms. Both would like to make ComEd more accountable. ComEd's answer, to...

been made but more needs to be

Neither legislator liked the expansion of gambling and had voted against the bill. Senator Garrett said that if Chicago did get a casino, it would be the only big city to have one. She felt this would work against the city's reputation.

Some of the other issues they addressed were the extension of Route 53 into Lake County, redistricting, taxes, and the budget.

If you missed the program, it was videotaped and can be seen on our website, www.tw-lift.org. Also, you can catch it on YouTube.



Rep. May and Senator Garrett at State of the State

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...and more information on the...
...and more information on the...

Discussion of Challenges to Women's Reproductive Health Rights

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The History Project

In 2010 our local League celebrated the 90th birthday of LWVUS on Valentine's Day and women's suffrage in August. To celebrate the anniversary, I wrote a skit for the opening membership party at Tracy Burns' home. Thanks to Tracy's vintage clothing collection, we had fun dressing for the decades. Therefore, when the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Historical Society asked the organizations in town to submit their history for the city's 150th anniversary project, we had a head start.

The Leagues of Women Voters in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff have played major roles in the history of the LWVUS as well as in our state, county, and local communities.

For instance, Alice Hixon in 1926 became the first national treasurer, and she and others have played major roles in public policy over the years.

The LWVLF had over 250 members and Lake Bluff 130 from the 1930s and through the 1960s, and were responsible for ravine conservation, forerunners of the Garden Club, the city plan commission, the caucus system, the Lake County Forest Preserve, the Lake County Health Department, and many other organizations and institutions. The two leagues combined in 1989.

The local leagues have studied civil service, election laws, the merit system, old age security, housing standards, the city budgets,

township government, and the eight-hour day for women, among many other issues. And we're still working to educate for good public policy.

I, with the valuable help of Nicki Snoblin and her daughter Amelia, have put this history into a booklet form which will be for sale at the Holiday Luncheon for a small charge to cover the printing costs. If any of you find League materials in your attic or basement, please call me because we will be putting this project online on our website and can always add pages there. We were happy to add this booklet to the Historical Society's collection.

—Jane Partridge

Clean Air Standards Work

The following was published in the Lake Forester on September 22, 2011.

Every summer, dirty air alerts arrive with the heat. Children can't play outside. The elderly and other sensitive groups (those with respiratory or pulmonary disorders) suffer elevated health risks.

Every year, coal-fired power plants, oil refineries, and other big polluters, numerous in the Chicago region, dump millions of tons of toxic and harmful pollutants into the air. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was preparing to update clean air standards for ozone and fine particulate matter and reduce this unhealthy pollution. Unfortunately, President Obama

gave in to pressure from officials trying to undermine these efforts.

Clean air standards work. According to the EPA, last year the Clean Air Act saved 160,000 lives, and multiple studies have demonstrated that efforts to clean up the air not only protect our health, but also provide a significant economic benefit to the country. The public wants clean air and wants to be assured that health is a priority for the nations

decision makers. The League of Women Voters is asking Americans from all walks of life, elected officials, and community and business leaders around the country and here in Lake Forest/Lake Bluff to join us in making a simple promise — the Clean Air Promise. We call on Illinois' elected representatives to make this promise to protect our children and families from harmful air pollution. Learn more about the Clean Air Promise at www.peoplenotpolluters.org.

In 1970, Congress passed the Clean Air Act to protect us from pollutants like smog, soot and mercury. For too long, the debate about pollution has focused on "over-regulation" and featured false assertions that environmental

protections hurt our economy. Clean air is an issue of public health. The League was one of the first organizations to speak out for the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Jane Partridge

Co-President, League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

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Food for Thought

While we were doing some research last summer for the LWV-LFLB History Project, we ran across an extraordinary letter, which we want to share with you here. It was written in 1963 by Mrs. James W. Morrison, a long-time member of the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest, to Mrs. Frank (Alice) Hixon, one of the founders of LWVLF, on the occasion of Mrs. Hixon's 80th birthday. Please take the time to read it through; we think you'll see why we wanted to share it.

My dear Alice,

Welcome to the ranks of the four score years and over. In spite of the gloomy warnings of the Book of Common Prayer in this matter, strength at this point is not necessarily "Labor and Sorrow". I seem to know a good many nonagenarians who still get around fairly well, and whose wits are a great pleasure to their friends and a comfort to themselves. If you have the luck to have pretty good health there's a special kind of pleasure to be gotten out of life at this period.

You don't worry too much any more, knowing a) that you can't personally do much about it and b) it's surprising how often people and things work themselves out in reasonable fashion.

You know the bell may ring any time, but one who has had as useful and rich a life as you has learned to take things as they come and it's such fun to look back over the past. Mercifully the edge is off the harder moments and you can laugh at idiocies, your own and others that used to exasperate you, while the love and affection you've had, the work and even the troubles you've shared acquire a warm, glowing quality like those golden days of Indian Summer that you cherish the more because they may be brief.

It's an extraordinary time to have lived through, these last eighty years, for anybody and especially for women. I had this brought home to me a few years ago when I was having dinner with one of my sons

in West Hartford. His house is at the end of a fair sized lake and when the trees are out you are hardly aware of other houses.

We stepped out on the terrace to the south and there, rising over the trees to the west came Sputnik—plain to be seen in spite of the glow of the city lights, rising slowly and with absolute steadiness moving across the lake and down below the trees to the east.

It was deeply moving to think about, this first crack in the door, beyond which lay what none of us could even begin to imag-

once great army, of course, the railroads had been put through some twenty years before. But there they were.

I knew I was an old woman, but in one lifetime, however long, to have made the jump from Covered Wagon to Sputnik made you think very hard indeed.

And while the fight for Woman Suffrage and all it implied had started some forty years before you or I were born, the last half of it, the entry of women in full legal rights as citizens, the forty years of their use of those rights, and the valiant work of the

League of Women Voters to help them do it wisely and well—all this we have seen and been a part of (yours a far larger part than mine). The changes in the pattern of men's and women's lives, of their thinking, their standards and points of view would be incredible if it hadn't as it were 'snuck up on us', so that living with and in it we were hardly aware of the change.



And then I remembered that when I was a small girl of five in Richmond, Indiana, we had an English governess whose idea of what to do with little girls when they were not having lessons was to button them up in their hats and coats and take them walking up and down the streets. No rowdy games or tomboy antics!

The main street of Richmond was a part of the old National Road that went from Baltimore, Maryland to St. Louis, which you may remember was the take off for the Oregon Trail. During the four years she was with us we must have seen as many as a dozen Covered Wagons—buckets strung along the axles, dogs trotting behind and children peering out from the back—go down that street and out to St. Louis and beyond. They were the last stragglers of that

What comes next we can hardly speculate. Personal and/or world annihilation is certainly not out of the picture but somehow I don't think the last is going to happen. Reading "We Seven", the astronauts' story of what has been done so far, looks as if we were both skillful and very steady in trying to find out what lies behind the door of space in spite of all the alarms and excursions.

One thing we do know—that the work we did for suffrage and the League of Women Voters brought us into close touch with some very remarkable human beings, gave us friendships that have endured and made all that has happened to us, good or bad, not only bearable but very worth while.

Good luck, dear friend,

Mary Morrison

Discourse Should Remain Civil

The following was published in the Lake Forester on November 11, 2011.

Contract negotiations between High School District 115 and the Lake Forest Education Association (LFEA) have become very public news in the past week.

Teachers are picketing in front of the school, both sides have sent letters to school families, and articles have been appearing in the newspapers and blogs. In some circles tempers are high and discussion is reaching a fever pitch.

The League of Women Voters - Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area welcomes a broad discussion about the high school teachers' contract. One of the principles of the League of Women Voters is that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.

But active participation does not mean shouting someone else. It doesn't do any good when discussions degenerate into name-calling and facts are twisted. To help in reaching the best results, public discourse should remain civil. To that end:

- **Be objective.** If a claim sounds too outrageous to be true, it probably isn't true. A lot

of assertions start with a grain of truth and then get blown up to astounding proportions. Make sure you know the whole story before passing a claim along. One way to do this is to go to the source. If you have heard that a particular person or group has done some egregious thing, ask them directly for their side of the story. They'll probably thank you.



Look for unbiased sources of information when you evaluate the things you're hearing. Even if both parties in a dispute believe they're telling the absolute truth, they can't help but put their own spin on it. If you can't find a truly unbiased source, then at least look at the information being put out by both sides before drawing conclusions.

- **Avoid hostility.** Don't write anonymous letters which only serve to indulge their writers in a level of incivility they presumably wouldn't stoop to in a face-to-face encounter. If you believe in something, and you're sure your belief is well-founded, then you shouldn't be afraid to put your name to it.

- **Respect participants.** The parties involved are not usually monsters. In this case, we have the Board members and the teachers. Board members are usually members of the community who have stepped up to do a necessary job, at no pay, for at least somewhat altruistic reasons. Teachers are usually interested in doing what's best for their students as well as their own pocketbook and would rather teach than picket. All parties involved in a public dispute should be treated and referred to respectfully.

The League of Women Voters hopes people will use situations like this to learn more about the issues, and exercise their rights and responsibilities as responsible citizens and community members.

Jane Partridge

Co-President, League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Highlights from LWVIL and LWVUS

LWVIL UPDATE

The League's lawsuit against the State of Illinois regarding redistricting was dismissed. The LWVIL is researching what steps to take next.

LWVIL will hold an Issues Briefing on Saturday, January 28, 2012. If you are interested in learning first-hand the status of the issues that the State League is following, please plan to attend. There will be more information in the December issue of *Illinois Voter*.

Please see www.lwvil.org for more information.

LWVUS UPDATE

The League has been working diligently on its priority of Clean Air Defense. They sent letters to the Senate opposing Senate Bill 1786, which would block the EPA from air pollution controls. They sent another letter asking the Senators to oppose Senator Rand Paul's resolution to void the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule.

LWV wrote President Obama to deny the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline project.

The League submitted comments to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) concerning the importance of the right to vote and hold office.

Please www.lwv.org for more information about their lobbying efforts.

Upcoming Events

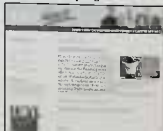
January 29, 2012: Program on women's health policy (see page 3)

February: Candidate forums; program planning meeting/tea

March: Program about water

April: Participation in a national study about privatization.

Watch our e-alerts for more information on these events over the spring!



LMLWV: "All problems started out as solutions"

This was the takeaway message from the conference of the Lake Michigan League of Women Voters held on October 21 and 22 in Oak Lawn, Illinois. There were three primary speakers at the conference with varying and overlapping areas of expertise: Todd Main of the Millennium Reserve Project, Debra Shore from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago, and Judy Beck of the EPA and LWV Glenview. Following are a few of the highlights of their presentations:

- The amount of fresh water on earth has not changed significantly over the centuries.

- Ninety percent of the earth's water is fit to drink.

- Twenty percent of the earth's fresh surface water is in the Great Lakes.

Due to the release of ballast waters, invasive species pose serious threats to native plants, fish, and wildlife in the Great Lakes. Federal and state laws are frequently at odds, resulting in little regulation. The zebra mussel which now covers the bottom of Lake Michigan is a prime example of an invasive

The Asian carp, which is really several different carp under a single name, was introduced into Arkansas and Louisiana in the

1980s to clean algae from the catfish farms. Local flooding allowed some of the carp to escape and work their way to the Mississippi and northward. They now threaten the Great Lakes. The Army Corp of Engineers has built several electric barriers in an attempt to prevent the carp from moving into Lake Michigan.

There is some question as to the sustainability



of the carp in Lake Michigan as the carp feed at the top of the water and the zebra mussels, through their constant filtering of the water, have removed the carps' available food source. This summer 225 tons of carp were harvested in the Morris area, where

they breed. The carp is made into meal for chickens. The "Target Hunger Now" program is examining the viability of using the carp to provide protein for food banks. The carp is tasty and free of mercury. China bought 50 million pounds of carp and is marketed it as "Dancing Fish from the pristine waters of the Illinois River."

The goals of the Lake Michigan League of Women Voters (League members from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan) were stated as follows:

1. To support legislation promoting sustainable agriculture and protection of our environment, as well as human health
2. To review pollution discharge permits for CAFO (large contained animal feeding operations)
3. To encourage the use of recycled water for water golf courses and other public properties
4. To create a committee to study the possibilities of building wind farms off shore in Lake Michigan
5. To encourage the collection of unused medicines to prevent the contamination of

Submitted by Midge Heurich, LWV-LFLB Liaison to LMLWV

Join Us for the Capitol Steps!

The Capitol Steps began as a group of Senate staffers who set out to satirize the very people and places that employed them. The group was born in December 1981 when some staffers for Senator Charles Percy were planning entertainment for a Christmas party.

Well known for their irreverent humor, the Capitol Steps dig into the headlines of the day to create song parodies and skits that convey their own special brand of satire. Join us for a hilarious evening:

Friday, January 27, 8:00 p.m.

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

Tickets - \$47.50

Call Mary at 847-295-1494 as soon as possible to make your reservation or for more information. We will be carpooling.

DESPERATE HOL SEMEMBERS



Expand Your Skills!

We may be sponsoring moderator training and deputy voter registrar training in the next month or two.

If you're interested, please call Mary at 847-295-1494 and let her know.

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

P.O. Box 645
Lake Forest, IL 60045



www.LWV-LFLB.org
... check it often!

***This is the last printed
edition of League Lines
for those who requested
email newsletters.***

If you requested a printed newsletter, you will continue to receive it by mail. If you want to change your mind, let us know.

DON'T MISS ...

- | | |
|------------|--|
| December 9 | Holiday Luncheon
The Grille on Laurel
10:30 a.m. |
| January 9 | Program on women's health policy
Private home
4:00 p.m. |
| January 27 | Capitol Steps
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts
Call Mary today to make your reservation!
(847) 295-1494 |

Watch our e-alerts for programs in February, March, and April.

And remember: ALL members are welcome to attend our monthly board meetings! They are held the second Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Contact a board member for locations.



League Lines

MARCH 2012

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Peg Determan, Lake Forest
Barbara Monsor, Lake Forest

Thanks for joining us!

Dear League Member:

- Interesting and interested people
- Doing interesting work and
- Having interesting dialog...

Does this sound like a group that might interest you?

An experience to remember: demanding, rewarding, challenging, satisfying...join the LWW-LFLB Board of Directors to be part of a dynamic, fun group of people.

Call Abbie for more information, 847-234-7281.

Our Water in Peril

"Water, water, every where, nor any drop to drink"
- let us hope the Ancient Mariner's verse will not apply to us 200 years later.

The League of Women Voters, AAUW, and Lake Forest Open Lands Association are co-sponsoring the program "Our Water in Peril" to explain some of the water issues we face here in northeastern Illinois and in context to the worldwide plight.

On Thursday, March 22, 7:00 p.m., at Gorton Community Center, three experts will describe a few of the dilemmas we experience. Judy Beck, US EPA, Lake Michigan Manager; Mike Adam, Senior Biologist, Lake County Health Department; and John Sentell, President, Lake Forest Open Lands Association will tackle different aspects of our local water resources.

Since 1993, when the United Nations General Assembly declared March 22 as World Water Day, the U.N. and its member nations have devoted



the day to activities regarding the world's water resources. The importance of fresh water and its sustainable management cannot be emphasized enough. Our lives and those of the other 6.9 billion people depend upon it.

Please support World Water Day by learning more about critical water issues. Join us for "Our Water in Peril" and hear what some of the problems are, ask questions, and find some simple steps that can be done at the local level.

Inside this issue:

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Great Decisions Series

Years ago, the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) jointly formed a Great Decisions discussion group. This year the Great Decisions group meets the second Friday of each month at Betty Boker's home from February until November. We watch a video from the Foreign Policy Association as an introduction to the chapter we are reading from our Great Decisions book. This briefing book contains documented background on each topic in the series. We start promptly at 1:00 p.m.



This year our eight topics are as follows: Middle East realignment; promoting democracy; Mexico; cybersecurity; exit from Afghanistan and Iraq; the state of the oceans; Indonesia; and energy geopolitics.

After watching the video, we have a lively discussion until 3:00, when we adjourn. Please call Jane Partridge (847-234-1247) if you wish to attend. If you are interested in U.S. foreign policy, this is the group for you!

Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear Fellow Leaguers,

After our enjoyable Holiday Luncheon with Megan Wells in December, a group of us in January enjoyed laughing at the Capitol Steps performance, where national candidates from both sides of the aisle bore the brunt of the group's satire.

In February, we were very busy with candidate forums. The one on the 19th for candidates for State Representative, State Senator, and Lake County Board was very successful thanks to Ann Grant, V.P. Voter Service, with the help of Mary Jane Brady, the Board, and other members. We then co-sponsored a forum on the 26th in Highland Park for the candidates in the 10th District, all Democrats vying to run against Congressman Dold in November. And then on March 4th, the forum was for Lake County

offices of Clerk of the Circuit Court, Coroner, Recorder of Deeds, and State's Attorney as well as the candidates for contested races for Lake County Board District 12. It was held at the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Senior

Center. For the second year we have enjoyed our Valentine's Day Tea at Abbie Passnacht's, where we talked about program ideas for the coming year and enjoyed goodies with our tea. Mark your calendars for the program on "Our Water in Peril," with three experts on a panel at Gorton Community Center on March 22nd. In the last two weeks of April, we'll be studying the parameters of privatization, first by an informational seminar which will be followed by a consensus meeting (see page 5). The consensus is for a study that LWVUS is conducting. Then

in May we will hold our annual meeting on the 22nd.

We want to thank all of you who pitched in and helped make our League activities so successful. We do a service for the community through our candidate forums, voter registration, and programs that educate about important public policy. Also, read the letters we write for the press on civility, campaign financing, and more (available on our website, www.lwv-lfb.org). Remember, democracy is not a spectator sport!

*Jane Partridge and Mary Mathews
Co-Presidents*

P.S.: Be sure to let your friends know how rewarding it is to be a member of the League and ask them join us. We welcome new members!

Holiday Luncheon Wrap-up

Once again, a good time was had by all! The annual Holiday Luncheon at The Grille on Laurel in December was a great fundraiser and fun-raiser. The entertainment was enjoyable as dramatist Megan Wells gave animated interpretations of stories from mythology. The food, as always, was tasty. Members were able to catch up with friends they hadn't seen for a while due to everyone's different travels and responsibilities. As an added bonus, some attendees bought books for holiday giving (or themselves) table arrangements for their home decorations. The Lake Forester even pictures of our event! If you would

help with planning the one for next year, please let a board member know. It is a lot of fun, and doesn't take much time.



Three Candidate Forums for the Primary

Our League is in the middle of the primary Candidate Forum season. We planned a demanding schedule of three forums in three weeks. Each forum has been recorded by LFTV and will be shown on local public access channel 17 or 19, our website www.lwv-lfb.org, and on LFTV's YouTube channel (EnjoyLakeForest). Some of the forums will be shown for a limited time on the Waukegan public access cable as well.

We have been working with other local chapters of the League and with the web-based news outlet Patch.com. On **Sunday, February 19th** at Lake Bluff Elementary School, candidates for three contested races participated in our forum: for State Representative 58th District, Mark Neerhof and Lauren Turelli; for State Senate 29th District, Julie Morrison and Milton Sumption; and for Lake County Board District 13, David Barkhausen, Robert Glueckert, Sandra Hart, Rick Lesser, and Anthony Soler.

The school provided a great venue with ample space. We were very happy with the turnout and the number of questions submitted. Our partnership with Lake Forest-Lake

Bluff Patch proved to be very interesting. People submitted questions to the online news media outlet directly and also were able to participate in a blog.

On **Sunday, February 26th** at Highland Park Country Club, candidates for contested races for the 10th Congressional District and the State Senate 29th District participated. For the 58th State Representative race, Lauren Turelli was not able to attend as planned, and so her opponent Mark Neerhof made a brief presentation. The 10th Congressional candidates who participated were Vivek Bavda, Brad Schneider, Ilya Sheyman, and John Tree. The 29th State Senate candidates were Julie Morrison and Milton Sumption.

The large ballroom at the Country Club was needed for the audience. This forum was co-sponsored by five local chapters of the League in the 10th Congressional District along with the Union League Club of Chicago. Again LFTV recorded the forum for future airing.

The final forum was on **Sunday, March 4, 1:30p.m.** at Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Senior Center. There were five contested races. Can-

didates running for Lake County Board District 12 are Scott Helton and Mike Rummel. Candidates for the following Lake County offices participated: for Coroner: Howard Cooper, Steve Newron, and Artis Yancey (Thomas Rudd did not participate); for Circuit Court Clerk: Keith Brin and Gerald Dietz; for Recorder: Bob Bodnar and Marry Blumenthal; and for States Attorney: Louise Hayes, Chris Kennedy, Reginald Mathews, Mike Nerheim, Karen Boyd Williams, and Bryan Winter. A number of these candidates live in the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff area and are attracting quite a bit of support.

The forum was co-sponsored by Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Patch, Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Senior Center, LWV-Highland Park/Highwood, and LWV-Deerfield. These forums have been very well received and publicized. All the work involved in planning and putting on these three forums in a short period of time would not have been possible without all the League volunteers. Your help was invaluable! The voters and communities were well served.



February 19: Mark Neerhof and Lauren Turelli; Julie Morrison and Milton Sumption; Robert Glueckert, Anthony Soler, Rick Lesser, Sandra Hart, and David Barkhausen



February 26: Ilya Sheyman, Brad Schneider, John Tree, and Vivek Bavda



Winter, Karen Boyd Williams, and



March 4: Scott Helton and Mike Rummel; Howard Cooper, Steve Newron, and Artis Yancey; Louise Hayes, Chris Kennedy, Reginald Mathews, Mike Nerheim, Karen Boyd Williams, and Bryan Winter

Grassroots and Goodies, Redux/Program Planning

Valentine's Day and the allure of tea goodies can be tempting. But the real attraction is getting together with some kindred spirits and discussing current issues. The purpose of the February 14th meeting was for members to discuss what positions our League should have as focus for next year. Enjoying an afternoon tea in a pleasant setting just made the job all the easier. Once again, Abbie Fassnacht hosted a productive and successful Program Planning Meeting at her house. We are grateful for her hospitality. Everyone felt our current priorities should continue. In addition, there was considerable discussion about possible

development changes in Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood, which prompted including two more priorities. Next year could be very busy! The Board will review the sug-

gestions and propose a Program. Members will vote for a 2012-2013 Program at the Annual Meeting. Plans are being made, and be ready to jump in at



Jana Partridge and Melanie Rummel; Barbara Monsor and Abbie Fassnacht

LWV Concerned About Unlimited Money

On January 21, the nation marked the second anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. This decision enabled corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence federal and state elections.

As the 2012 election season ramps up, so will the corporate, union, and special interest financing of political advertising. With the proliferation of Super PACs, voters are not aware who is behind major advertising campaigns. Disclosure is delayed and transparency is lacking.

Voters should question every political advertisement they see or hear. Who paid for the ad and why? If the sponsor is a group or organization, does it have a website that explains its purpose and donation information? Consider the possible motivation behind an expensive ad campaign that attacks a candidate.



Unlimited money has a corrupting influence on elections and elected officials. As always: follow the money. For reliable donation information, voters can visit www.opensecrets.org or www.votesmart.org. And finally, voters should ask every candidate his or her position on campaign finance reform. Be an informed

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

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National Convention Is Coming Up!

The League of Women Voters is holding its 50th Biennial Convention from June 8th through June 12th at the Washington Hilton in Washington D.C.

All local and state leagues are requested to send delegates, who will vote for new officers, budget, and the national Program for the next two years.

This is a great learning experience and a lot of fun. It is jam-packed with meetings all

day, from as early as 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. League members from all over the country meet and share insight, helpful tips, and success stories. There also is the option of lobbying on Capitol Hill on Tuesday afternoon after the close of the convention at noon.

We have budgeted to pay for part of the expense of attending the convention. If you would like more information or are interested in going, please call Mary at 847-295-1494.

Challenges to Reproductive Health

Prue and Frank Beidler invited League members into their home to enjoy wine and appetizers during our January program "Challenges to Reproductive Health."

While the Beidlers' warmth and hospitality softened the presentation, members learned of the very real attacks against reproductive health. Our speaker, Pam Sutherland, VP for Public Policy, Planned Parenthood of Illinois, provided an update on the current assaults to reproductive health in Illinois and across the country.

This past year, there has been an unprecedented number of proposed legislation curtailing women's access to affordable health care services, health education, birth control, reproductive choices, and emergency care. Sutherland made a number of

Although the number one concern of Americans is jobs, the first House bill in the 112th Congress, HR1, was to defund Planned Parenthood. The federal government almost shut down due to John Boehner's insistence on defunding the family planning organization.

In April 2011, Senator Dick Durbin was very angry with the direction of the House's efforts and held a press conference denouncing the proposed elimination of funding for the Title X program that provides family planning and preventive health services to low-income and uninsured women and men. Congressman Bob Dold spoke to keep



Frank Beidler, Pam Sutherland, Prue Beidler, Jane Partridge, and Carole Brito

federal funding. Contrary to Senator Kyl's statement, over 90% of Planned Parenthood's work is concentrated on preventive services, such as Pap smears, contraception, blood pressure, and breast exams, mostly for women who cannot afford other providers.

These continuous barrages against women were happening not only at the national level and in conservative states, but also here in Illinois. This past year there were seven bills limiting reproductive health care. Since 1983, when the League adopted its position "Public Policy on Reproductive Choices," the League has opposed restrictions to the right to privacy in reproductive

proved to be very timely. "Challenges to Reproductive Health" primed us for the subsequent national debates on the Susan B. Komen Foundation decisions, internal ultrasounds in Virginia, "personhood" and contraceptives.

On the League's behalf, Jane thanked Prue and Frank Beidler for both the afternoon hospitality and the Beidler family's continued support of the League. Prue is a long-time member, and her mother-in-law, Eleanor Beidler, was a League president in 1942 and 1965. Eleanor had been active in the League for over 40 years.

At the state and national level, the League has worked with coalition partner Planned Parenthood and other pro-choice organizations to safeguard women's health. This year's program pertaining to our national position



Liz Bradner, Marilyn Shireflug, and Linda Barmes

Is Privatization the Answer? Participate in the LWVUS Study

Federal, state and local governments own extensive assets and are major employers. Governments often consider selling assets and outsourcing some functions a vices to the private sector, including "core" government services such as providing for the safety, security and general welfare (public well-being) of citizens, the economy, and our country.

Privatization of these government assets, services and functions has been occurring for decades at all levels of government. The consequences of "privatizing" a government service or function, in particular, may enhance the function or service. Alternatively,

it may reduce or alter functions and services. Government revenues may be reduced or lost, and jobs may be cut. In some instances, this may have a detrimental effect on the "common good" or public well-being.

SCOPE OF THE PRIVATIZATION STUDY

The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such

transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

A public program will be held on Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 pm at the Lake Bluff Recreation Center. Drew Irvin, Village administrator for Lake Bluff, and Liz Bradner and Ann Hamlin will discuss some of their experiences with privatization. There will be a consensus meeting for members only at a private home the following week.

The consensus questions appear on the next two pages. Please bring them along to the consensus meeting.

PRIVATIZATION CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

Consensus questions one and two should be presented to the group at the outset of the meeting and then repeated after the other questions have been answered.

1. As a general matter, the extent to which government functions, services and assets have been privatized in the past decade is:

☐ Much too much ☐ Too much ☐ About right ☐ Too little ☐ Much too little ☐ No consensus

2. Core government services and functions important to well-being of the people should remain with government and not be transferred to the private sector.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ No consensus

3. As a matter of good government policy, which of the following criteria should be applied when making decisions to transfer government services, assets and functions to the private sector?

a. Transparency and Accountability: All government contracts with private companies for services must ensure public access to relevant records and information regarding contracted services, functions and assets and provide for adequate government oversight and control.

☐ High priority ☐ Lower priority ☐ Not a priority ☐ No consensus

b. Public Well-being: Provisions are in place to assure that, in the event any public services are to be privatized, there will be no increased risks to public well-being, especially to vulnerable populations.

☐ High priority ☐ Lower priority ☐ Not a priority ☐ No consensus

c. Cost and Quality: Privatized services should not appreciably increase the costs or decrease the quality of services to the public.

☐ High priority ☐ Lower priority ☐ Not a priority ☐ No consensus

d. Environmental and Natural Resources: Defined parameters should be in place to assure that environmental and natural resources are not compromised.

☐ High priority ☐ Lower priority ☐ Not a priority ☐ No consensus

e. Contracts and Sales of Public Assets: All government contracts and privatized public assets should be subject to competitive bidding and comply with all laws regarding awarding contracts.

☐ High priority ☐ Lower priority ☐ Not a priority ☐ No consensus

f. Economic Impact: Privatization should not result in a negative economic impact on the communities in which the services are provided.

☐ High priority ☐ Lower priority ☐ Not a priority ☐ No consensus

g. Government Recovery of Services and Assets: Provisions should be in place to recover key services, assets and functions should the private sector fail to safeguard them.

☐ High priority ☐ Lower priority ☐ Not a priority ☐ No consensus

4. Privatization is not appropriate:

a. When the government lacks the will, ability or resources to adequately oversee contracts with the private entity and any successor thereto.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No Consensus

b. When there is no private entity able or willing to provide the service for the short and long term.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No Consensus

c. When it poses a potential threat to national security.

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No Consensus

- d. When it poses a risk to personal or security data
☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No Consensus
- e. When there has been evidence of potential corruption.
☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No Consensus
- f. When the private entity's goals and purposes are not compatible with public well-being.
☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No Consensus
- g. When the private entity has not complied with existing government requirements for public records, open meetings or publication of reports and audits.
☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No Consensus
- h. When a loss of revenue decreases government support for mandated or critical services.
☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ No Consensus
5. Some states have developed laws and regulations to control the process of privatization within their jurisdictions. As a general matter, should privatization be regulated?
- ☐ a. Yes, all privatization efforts should be regulated.
☐ b. Yes, some types of privatization efforts should be regulated.
☐ c. No, privatization efforts should never be regulated
☐ d. No consensus
6. Which of the following should be included in the regulatory process when privatizing public assets, services and functions?
- a. Timely public announcements regarding intentions to privatize and the clear and measurable expected benefits to the public
☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ No consensus
- b. Public and stakeholder (investors, shareholders, experts) input into the decision and terms of the contract.
☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ No consensus
- c. Feasibility study regarding performance, costs and benefits.
☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ No consensus
- d. Adherence to all laws regarding public contracts..
☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ No consensus
- e. Transition plans for displaced employees.
☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ No consensus
- f. Accountability and transparency provisions in all contracts.
☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ No consensus
- g. Regular performance evaluations including meaningful opportunity for public comment.
☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ No consensus
- h. Provisions for transferring services and assets back to the government or another contractor in the event of inadequate performance.
☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ No consensus
- i. Adequate resources for enforcement.
☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree ☐ No consensus

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

P.O. Box 645
Lake Forest, IL 60045



www.LWV-LFLB.org
... check it often!

Still want a printed newsletter?

If you can access the newsletter online instead, please let us know and save us the postage!

Highlights from LWVIL and LWVUS

LWVIL has filed an appeal regarding its redistricting suit with the U.S. Supreme Court. The League expects to learn in a couple of months whether the Supreme Court will take the case.

League members from all over the state packed the annual Issues Briefing held in Chicago. LWVIL has a new pamphlet, "Making Your Voice Heard," which can be downloaded from their website. LWV-LFLB has a few printed copies available.

In December, Paula Lawson (former LWVIL president) testified at an Illinois Campaign Finance Reform Task Force hearing. On behalf of the League, she requested that the task force recommend that the General Assembly consider a system of public financing that will be open and fair and restore the trust of the public in elections in Illinois and in their state government.

In February, LWVIL submitted comments to the State Board of Education about its request for a waiver to No Child Left Behind. The League urged the Board to make sure that resources are targeted primarily at schools that are disadvantaged by the

state's reliance on property taxes and by tremendous discrepancies in school funding in Illinois.

LWVUS has been very active lobbying this year. With coalition partners it sent two letters to senators. One was to oppose efforts to kill EPA Standards. The other letter opposed the Keystone XL Pipeline legislation.

The League sent an action alert to members asking that they contact their senators to vote against the Blunt-Rubio amendment that would limit access to contraceptive services for women if any employer or insurance plan has a "religious or moral objection" to it.

LWV surpassed its goal of 25,000 signatures on the FEC petition to The White House.

The League is awaiting the response President Obama and his plans for the Federal Election Commission, which is charged with enforcing the law and stopping illegal coordination by candidate Super PACs. Please see www.lwvil.org or www.lwv.org for more information about the state and national Leagues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 22, 2012:
Our Water in Peril
7:00 pm
Gorton Community Center

April
Watch for Privatization program
followed by a consensus meeting

May 22
Annual Meeting
Time and place to be determined

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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Culture and Politics Reception Annual Fall Kick-off Event

The Culture and Politics Reception on Sat. Sept. 28 was LWV-LF/LB's official kick-off event for the 2013-2014 year. Our five newly

elected legislators were invited to meet members and guests at the re-invent art gallery on Wisconsin Ave. in Lake Forest from 4 to 6 P.M. Stunning paintings by Voy Madeyski provided a beautiful backdrop.

State Senator Julie Morrison, County Board member Sandy Hart, and County Board

member Mike Rummel chatted with guests.



answered questions from an engaged audience. They also explained that although they were in different parties and elected positions, they worked well together for their constituents.

Unfortunately, the federal budget and government shutdown prevented Congressman Schneider from leaving Washington DC over the weekend and attending. As State Rep. Drury has



last minute family matter that needed his attention. Although disappointed about the missing legislators, members enjoyed not only the opportunity to interact with the three elected officials, but also the attractive venue and the tasty refreshments. The reception was a successful start to a busy year!



Sandy, Julie and Mike

Holiday Luncheon

The popular Holiday Luncheon has been scheduled for Friday, Dec. 6th at The Grille on Laurel. Jenny Riddle's dramatic presentation *First Ladies* was such a big hit last year that we asked her to return. She has appeared at book clubs and libraries for years, but word-of-mouth is spreading her name among League chapters, which resulted in her performance at LWVIL's convention this past June. Jenny's performance this year will be about the best-selling author Strayed and her book *Wild*.

Watch for your invitation and make your reservation quickly. There will be a discount for paying early. Invite your friends to attend also. There will be plenty of time for socializing over good food. As usual, book selections

from the Lake Forest Book Store will be suggested and available.



Jenny and Jane

Letter from the Co-Presidents

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The U.S. Federal Government is shut down at the time of this writing, but our League in Lake Forest/Lake Bluff is in action and ready to go for a full year of work and fun.

Our opening event with wine and hors d'oeuvres on September 28th at the Re-invent Gallery introduced some of our newly elected representatives. State Senator Julie Morrison, Sandy Hart and Mike Rummel on the Lake County Board made helpful presentations, and Royceale Wood joined the panel to answer education questions.

Per the "Program" adopted at the Annual Meeting, we have a number of public educational activities planned.

First, on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7:00 P.M. at Gorton, a panel will focus on recent



gun legislation. Our Lake Forest Chief of Police James Held, State Rep. Scott

Drury, and Nicole Chen from "Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America" will address many of the questions surrounding recent gun legislation. If you did not follow the two City Council meetings on July 1 and 15, refer to Liz Bradner's article on "Gun Sense" in the summer newsletter. As a Home Rule town Lake Forest had options for an ordinance regarding assault weapons. Numerous League members and colleagues testified at both city

council meetings urging a ban on assault weapons and large magazines, but to no avail. We also spoke for transparency and the democratic process. An assault weapon ordinance was not scheduled for the July 15th meeting. However, Mayor Schoenheider did put public comment back on the agenda July 15th at our request that we and many other Lake Forest residents had a chance to speak, and we thank him for

Our next public program will be in November about the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Because so many are uninformed or misinformed about the ACA (or Obamacare as it is commonly known) and the insurance exchanges, our LWV will offer a chance to answer all of your questions on Nov. 7 at the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest at 7:00 P.M. Why the law? How to sign up for the insurance exchanges? Who benefits from the law and who does not? Our panel will consist of John Shustitzky, Chief Executive Officer for The Alliance for Human Services and Tony Beltran, Head of the Lake County Health Department and others w



ives to be factually informed about the law.



In December, we once again will enjoy a wonderful social event with the Holiday Luncheon. Mark your calendars now for December 6, at The Grille on Laurel. Jenny Rickle will make a return appearance.

Although we were planning to have a Campaign Finance Reform program in the fall, we have had to postpone it until after the new year. We are lining up some excellent speakers including our member Corinne Wood. If you want to get a taste

of what the campaign finance interest group has been discussing, please watch Trevor Potter on YouTube youtube.com/watch?v=H8hE3b-djW0 The League is closely watching the case *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission* before the Supreme

spring.

we will take up the LWVUS

Agriculture Study update, to be followed by an environmental program. Much more is planned for 2014.

Keep tuned in. You can be a member of the non-partisan LWV and still pursue your own political agenda under your own name. Let's work to keep (or recapture) our democracy. We hope to see you soon and often!

— Jane and Mary

Lake Forest Day Parade 2013



Who doesn't love parades! The League again had an entry in the Lake Forest Day parade in August. Although unforeseen circumstances prevented using Stephanie Victor's spiffy blue XKE Corvette, she provided another vehicle decorated for the occasion. Liz Bradner and Cindy Morehead joined her in enthusiastically waving flags and enjoying the beautiful day. They not only had a good time but also did a great job in promot-

ing democracy in a visible and pleasant fashion.

DUES
want YOU in the Membership Directory!
Mail your dues or use PayPal on our website NOW!
'Nuff said? Thanks!

Gun Laws Affecting You?



Dep. Chief Walldorf, Rep. Drury, Ms. Chen

The interest in gun legislation has not gone away, especially in light of new mass shootings. And the recent arrest of a man carrying a concealed gun at the BMW Championship at Conway Farms reminded Lake Foresters that we are not completely sheltered.

The League sponsored a successful public program on Wednesday, October 16, at the Gorton Community Center in Lake Forest. The topic was "Gun Laws Affecting You?" and featured a panel of speakers comprised of Scott Drury, State Representative, 58th District; Karl

Walldorf, Lake Forest Deputy Chief of Police; and Nicole Chen, a volunteer from Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense.

Recent legislation regarding guns was discussed with emphasis on the new concealed carry laws. Other topics included assault weapons, universal background checks, etc. Questions included where exactly do things stand in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff? Are businesses comfortable with the new residents feel they and their children are safe? What are the requirements for training and permits? allowed where? Are there shortcomings, and is more legislation needed? What are the ramifications of the new laws and the loss of our local control?

The League of Women Voters has spent decades lobbying at the federal, state, and local level for sensible gun legislation. Specifically, the League has urged adoption of legislation that will close gun show loopholes, increase penalties

for straw purchases of guns, ban assault weapons, place limits on high capacity ammunition magazine size, and fund research and reporting on gun violence in America. We believe that curbing gun violence is a critical matter of public safety, public health, and public confidence. The struggle is not over.

Go to our website www.lwv-lfb.org to watch the program. Or catch it on LFTV channel 17 and 19, or watch it on YouTube.



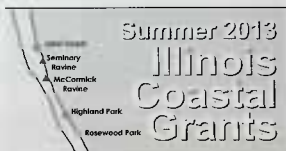
What, exactly, IS a "well regulated" militia?

League Wins Coastal Grant

The Leagues of Women Voters of Illinois (LWVIL) and Lake Michigan (LMLWV) were officially recognized as the recipient of a grant from the Illinois Coastal Grants Program by Illinois

Governor Pat Quinn at a press event on Saturday, October 12th at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium.

The League project, "Stormwater: From the Ground Up," was announced as one of 12 funded projects under this first-ever initiative administered nationally by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and locally by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Coastal Grant Program is supporting local environmental education projects along



Illinois's 63-mile of Michigan shoreline.

Our sister League, LWV-Lake County will be participating in the program funded by the grant. If you would like to learn more about this project, please email contact@lwv-lfb.org.

Funded Projects

- Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach to Coastal Communities
- Coastal Ambassadors Program
- Millennial Reserve Regional Atlas
- ▲ Cucumber at My Back Yard
- The Ripple Effect: Building a Community that Cares about our Great Lake
- Expanding Youth Conservation Action in the Millennium Reserve
- Stormwater: From the Ground Up
- Experience Caramel Water Trails Community Workshops
- Think Beyond the Banks: Education and Outreach
- Lake Forest Ravine Education and Outreach Program
- William Terman Maritime Education Program
- ▲ Youth Outdoors Ambassadors

Voter Registration at Newcomer's Club



Newcomers' Club of Lake Bluff and Lake Forest again invited the League to

register voters at its annual opening luncheon in September. Liz Bradner and

Tina O'Connor enjoyed a productive couple of hours at the Esmoor County Club as they registered some new voters and answered many questions.

This may have been our last opportunity for coordination with Newcomers and other local institutions. With implementation of the new law in January allowing online voter registration, there will be limited demand for deputy registrars from LWV-LF/LB. But as long as people register and vote, we will be satisfied.



LWVIL 55th BIENNIUM REPORT: 2011-2013

Delegates to the 2011 LWVIL Convention reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening the democratic process by educating members and the public on issues, promoting civic participation, and encouraging public policy outcomes consistent with its positions on issues.

In 2011, these delegates adopted a program that included a study of the Illinois Pension System and the following six Action Foci: Fiscal Policy and Tax Reform, Campaign Finance Reform, Redistricting Reform, Immigration, Climate Change and Large-Scale Livestock Facilities.

The above words constitute the preamble to a comprehensive (and fascinating) report on the LWVIL website (www.lwvil.org) which evaluates progress made by the State League and the LWVIL Education Fund.

It begins with a statement of issues relating to the pension system and a describes how they were researched and debated. No position has been taken;

the League remains neutral with respect to the various methods of resolving the problem.

The report next describes the action focus on fiscal policy and tax reform. Following an analysis of current and projected needs, it concludes that a constitutional amendment introducing the graduated income tax (GRIT) would provide a workable solution. (An article on GRIT issues and benefits can be found on the next page of this newsletter.)

Campaign Finance and Election Reform were hot topics in 2011 and haven't cooled down. The League has made a strong effort to educate the public about the issues. A related issue is that of redistricting. The 2010 Fair Map Amendment citizen initiative was ineffective as demonstrated by the 2012 election results. The League continues to work with various groups to insure that fair districting maps are drawn.

Immigration reform was the focus of a study concluded in 2007. The report reaffirms the position taken at that time.

Recently, the League supported successful legislation to provide those undocumented with temporary driver's licenses. The path to citizenship is currently arduous. The League is awaiting Federal action.

Climate change is a very broad issue, including air quality and energy production and consumption, water quality and supply equity, and large-scale livestock facilities. Such an obviously broad issue requires much input and discussion, and occasionally courage in the face of opposition.

This brief introduction hardly does the report justice. The report is 22 pages long and full of interesting detail about many issues not reported here which are of current interest. It should be required reading for all League members!

LWVUS Highlights

<http://www.lwv.org>

LWVUS is so busy that it is hard to keep up. The work this year is focused on four important topics: Protecting and Engaging Voters, Reforming Money in Politics, Defending the Environment, and Gun Safety. You may realize that most of those subjects are the same ones that concern us locally.

1) The League teamed up with hundreds of organizations all across the county on Sept. 24 to hold the second National Voter Registration Day. The event was very successful with over 24,000 registered new voters in one day. In addition, LWVUS continues to lobby for the restoration of the Voting Rights

2) The League is watching closely the *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Board* case before the Supreme Court concerning money in politics and the possibility of corruption. LWVUS joined AARP, Common Cause, Progressives United and others in filing an amicus brief with Trevor Potter as the Counsel of Record.

3) The Administration's strong : against climate change is fully endorsed by the League. LWVUS pledged their support along with the League of Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club and others in favor of the EPA's proposal to limit carbon pollution from new power plants. The League will be testifying at

an EPA hearing in November.

4) Gun legislation is on the minds of many concerned citizens. LWVUS sent letter to the US House in support of common sense gun legislation. Our Lobby Corps also discusses the subject when they meet individually with legislators.

TAKE ACTION



Urge Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act and ensure our elections are free, fair and accessible for all citizens.

Eighty-Five Years and Counting

Reminder: copies of *Eighty-Five Years and Counting* by Jane Partridge are available for \$3.00. Jane researched and wrote this 24 page booklet. In it she describes with a humorous touch the history of the Leagues of Women Voters of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff.

She ties in League activities with the national background. It makes for great reading and will bring a smile to your face as you reminisce. Please call Mary at 847-295-1494 if you would like a copy.

In hopes of preserving additional historical material, we are collating and archiving our League papers. Were you on the LWV Board at some point and have boxes of old documents that you don't want anymore? We would be happy to take them off your hands! Call Jane (847-234-1247) or Mary, and

thanks for your donation!



Welcome New Members!

It seems fitting that we should use this space to welcome new members. The title of Jane's booklet points out that our League not only has history, but also looks to the future. That's why new members are so important and so very much appreciated.

And so we say, with deep sincerity, welcome to new members: Carol Gayle, Beth Martin, and Sophie Twiche.



LWVIL Highlights <http://www.lwvil.org>



From top left to bottom right: Bonnie Cox, Mary Cay Mullins, Joan Pearson, Kathi Graffam, Sharon Alter, Gigi Moore, Roberta Borrini, Mary Kubasak, Erin Roeper, Irene Pritzker. Not pictured: Mary Klonowski, Ann Yoshida

As many of you know, LWVIL held its biennial convention in June. The new board is set to work.

One of their first accomplishments was a wonderful State of the State Luncheon at the Union League Club. A number of LWV-LFLB members attended and reported that the speakers were excellent. The panel of four women in government (Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno, Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon, and State Representative Patricia Bellock along with the moderator Mary Schmich from the *Chicago Tribune*) helped celebrate the 100th anniversary of women voting in Illinois.

LWVIL is working on two issues for placement on the 2014 ballot and is requesting help from local leagues. The first is the Graduated Rate Income Tax. The League has long felt a graduated

tax is more equitable. With the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, LWVIL is spearheading the effort for a Constitutional Amendment on the 2014 ballot. Page 5 of this newsletter has more information about this important

The second issue is redistricting. Federal, state, and county districts were gerrymandered by both parties in Illinois. This works for the party in power but against the best interest of the voter. LWVIL has signed on with the "Yes For Independent Maps" coalition in an effort to place the Independent Redistricting Amendment on the November 2014 ballot. Both these efforts are very important and are going to require a lot of work. If you are interested, please call the state office: 312-939-5935.



Cl. to Rt. Sen. Radogno, Lt. Gov. Lisa Madigan, Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon, St. Rep. Patricia Bellock at State of State event

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If you already have "liked" us, ARE YOU SEEING OUR POSTS IN YOUR NEWS FEED? Facebook limits how many posts you see from the pages you like. Add us to your interest lists so our posts will show up more often in your newsfeed. Thanks!

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

P.O. Box 645

Lake Forest, IL 60045

www.LWV-LFLB.org
... check it often!



Find us on
Facebook

Calendar

Saturday, Sept. 28, 4-6 P.M.
Culture and Politics Reception
annual kick-off event

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 7 P.M.
"Gun Laws Affecting You?"
Gorton Community Center, Lake Forest

Thursday, Nov. 7, 7 P.M.
"Obamacare, Just the Facts - Part Two"
First Presbyterian Church, Lake Forest

Friday, Dec. 6, 10:45 A.M.
Holiday Luncheon at The Grille on Laurel

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Jane Partridge	Co-President
Mary Mathews	Co-President
Liz Bradner	V.P. Voter Service
Steve Potsic	Treasurer
Cindy Morehead	Secretary

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Linda Bartmes	Hospitality
Stephanie Victor	Voter Registration
Kathleen Conlon-Wasik	LWV-LC Board Liason
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Nicki Snoblin	Webmaster
Diane Sanderson	Newsletter
Stan Sanderson	Newsletter

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."



LEAGUE LINES

SPRING 2014

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

A Message from the Co-Presidents

Inside this issue:

Co-Presidents' Letter

Program Planning
New Members

Ag Study-Happie Datt

Joan Kaltsas
Farm, Food, Feds

Stormwater

Parade Opportunities

Money in Politics
Fair Maps

Grad. Income Tax

Legis. Interviews

Comp. Plan, LF Hosp.
Sue Howard

LWVUS & LWVIL News

Calendar

1 Dear Friends,

Our job is to work, to educate, and to advocate for good public policy for all—a commitment we must keep!

2013–2014 has been a full and challenging year. We testified at two public hearings before the Lake Forest City Council last July in support of keeping the ban on assault weapons and large magazines. Many others from the community—at-large supported us and spoke in response to our alerts.

We met with our newly elected state and local leaders and held candidate debates. At a public meeting, a panel consisting of local Deputy Police Chief Karl Walldorf, State Representative Scott Drury, and Nicole Chen from Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense discussed gun-related issues.

Other public programs followed: "Obama-care, Just the Facts, Part Two," "Food, Farms, and the Feds," and "Money in Politics: Why it Matters." Coming soon is a program on stormwater. Trude Roselle hosted our Valentine's Tea/LWV Birthday Party which included program planning for next year's education and advocacy.

We have benefited by partnering with other organizations whose philosophy and purpose on specific issues matches that of the LWV, such as Elawa Farm, Lake Forest Open Lands, Lake Forest College, First Presbyterian Church, and AAUW.

Mary and I appreciate the efforts of many of you who have helped make our year active and, we hope, engaging. The more we all contribute makes possible our tasks to educate and engage the public, and to advocate for our positions. We have big challenges ahead, but we have increased membership and have begun to build our local League into one of the more active ones on the North Shore. *Patch, Gazette News, the Lake Forester, and the Trib Local* have helped us publicize. Now, onward!

Our history dating back to 1926, when Alice Hixon was national treasurer, will be continued, updated, and kept at the Lake Forest–Lake Bluff Historical Society in book-let form (along with our stored files).

Our annual meeting and light supper will be at Kitty Cole's home on June 12. We hope to see each of you there. Thank you again to each of you for your individual efforts.

*Jane Partridge and Mary Mathews
Co-Presidents*



Spring has arrived,
Loudly sing, cuckoo!
The seed is growing
The meadow blooming,
Wood now coming to leaf,
Sing, cuckoo!



Jane, Mary and Liz testifying before the Lake Forest City Council

☆☆☆SAVE THE DATE—ANNUAL MEETING☆☆☆
Thurs. June 12, at Kitty Cole's home!

Program Planning/ "Grassroots and Goodies, Again"

You don't want to spoil a winning combination. So, for the third year, we coordinated our Program Planning meeting with the League's birthday/Valentine's Day.

Mixing business with pleasure, members celebrated the League's birthday with an excellent selection of goodies, while also



Diane serving goodies

tackling the important question of what issues our grassroots organization should focus on next year.

Trude Roselle warmly welcomed everyone into her home. On this one day (Feb. 13) of a very long winter, Trude made sure we forgot the cold and snow outside.

The "Program Planning" process is undertaken by every League chapter at local,

state, county, and national levels. It develops over a number of months from start to finish.

It typically begins in January or February with members reviewing current positions, discussing areas for possible study—to lead to a position, and concluding in May or June with a vote by members to adopt a Program and possible action.

Our meeting was very successful. First, we discussed national positions and agreed all should be retained. We did not recommend any new studies.

Over the last few years, our League has participated in three national studies "Role of Federal Government in Public Education," "Privatization," and the "Agriculture Study Update." We also participated in the LWVIL Pension Study.

Our League's recommendations were submitted to LWVUS. This year at the LWVUS convention in Dallas, our delegates will vote on the national League's "Program" for the next two years.

After discussing the national positions, we moved on to our own positions. We decided to keep all our positions. There were no suggestions for a local study.

Program Planning provides an excellent

opportunity for members to learn about the League, and there were many questions. This past year, we had chosen to cover a wide range of topics for action. With so many issues, efforts can be diluted.

While there are many interesting and worthy subjects needing more public awareness, we discussed trying to focus our attention on a few and possibly making a bigger impact.

Our recommendations for action were submitted to the Board for a final recommended "Program." The Board will present a 'proposed program' at the annual meeting.

A big THANKS to Trude for opening her home for a full afternoon. And a big thanks to all who attended.

Please be sure to attend the Annual Meeting and



*Trude
and
friend*

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Welcome New Members!



*Carrie Chapman
Catt, LWV Founder*

its founding in 1920 to the present, it is our new members who keep us healthy and growing. You are joining an organization

with deep roots! The League website www.LWV.org tells the story.

We are happy to welcome new members Terry Desmond from Forest, Natalia Price from Forest, Madonna Lechner Grayslake, Judy Armstrong Round Lake Beach, and Carole Shook from Round Lake.

Please add your voices to ours and help us continue to make a difference. We value your contributions!



*Eleanor Roosevelt,
served as LWV V.P.*

Report of the Agriculture Study by Happie Datt

A small sub-committee headed by Happie Datt summarized extensive background information and emailed a packet to League members a week before the consensus meeting on Monday, April 7th. The packet summarized early legislation, the different agencies involved and the resulting farm practices and policies, including misuse of funds for each of the five broad areas of the consensus.

Members received a copy of the LWVUS current Agriculture Policy from the LWVUS Impact on Issues, as well as the consensus questions. Also included were Appendix 1—reprints from the *Washington Post's* one year long investigative series on agriculture policy misuse, "Food Labeling for Dummies" by animalwelfareapproved.org and the FDA's Food Ingredients two page summary. Ann Grant was pleased with the information and said, "Great job summing up a very complicated subject."



Jean Brown, Ann Grant, Barbara Monsor, Carol Gayle, Marilyn Shineflug, Anne Sorensen, Pauline Mohr, and Linda Bartmes discussing a consensus question at Happie's house. Many others not shown in this picture.

Sixteen members with very different backgrounds gathered at Happie's house. New member David Mueller, an attorney with experience on environmental issues, provided in-depth explanations for some of the questions. Jean Brown and Anne Sorensen articulated personal experiences with farming. Everyone joined the discussion as we moved through the 50 questions provided by LWVUS.

There were a few questions that no

longer were pertinent. Overall, everyone felt they had learned a lot and the time was well spent. Happie submitted to LWVUS our consensus responses which will be joined by others from all over the country. We will learn the updated position on agriculture in a few months.

"Participating in this consensus paves the way for making our voices heard on many issues involved in the production, distribution, and consumption of food," reflected Happie, after a job well done.

So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye Joan Kaltsas!



Joan Kaltsas only left building' but has left our area and her husband

are moving to Arizona. We cannot thank her enough for all she has done for our League, LWV—Lake County, and the many others where she moderated candidate debates. For the last three years she has gone over our bylaws with a fine tooth comb, and helped bring

them up to the six page wonder that they are. She moderated programs and acted as parliamentarian at annual meetings. The Village of Lake Bluff is losing one of its best volunteers. We all shall miss her. Stay in touch, her email address is in the directory!

Food, Farms and the Feds

"Food, Farms, and the Feds" was the second program the League hosted on agriculture issues. The first program was held on February 10, 2013. "Nutritious or Malicious" covered livestock farming and food allergies with panelists Bill Kurtis, WBBM-TV News Anchor and

livestock farmer, and Dr Ruchi Gupta, Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine food allergy specialist.

On April 2, 2014, at Elawa Farm, the League hosted its second program, "Food, Farms, and the Feds." Panelists

included Wes King, Executive Director of Illinois Stewardship Alliance; Mike Sands, Senior Associate at Liberty Prairie Foundation; and John des Rosiers, noteworthy chef/owner of Inovasi Restaurant in Lake Bluff. Wes King

(continued on page 4)

Food, Farms and the Feds, continued



Wes King, Mike Sands, John des Rosiers

provided an overview of the US Farm Bill and how its policies spearhead current farming practices and growth of agribusiness. Mike Sands explained how the Farm Business Development Center nurtures local specialty and organic farms in Illinois. Chef John des Rosiers shared his philosophy regarding local and sustainable farming, and purchasing quality foods for his restaurant.

environment, health, and food quality. Lake Bluff and Lake Forest have promoted their Farmers' Markets for years. Lake

Sustainability and local foods were popular subjects not only with the audience that night but also with our local governments. Reasons are many including econom-

ment considers strengthening the sustainable local food system as a priority. Lake Forest College has its own garden. LWV-LF/LB member Anne Sorensen, President of The Yellow Tractor Project, helps create organic gardens for schools and communities all over the country. There are a lot of options available—try one!

Both programs can be viewed on our website www.lwv-lfb.org.



Audience crowded the barn at Elawa Farm

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Stormwater: From the Ground Up

Watch for information about our last program of the year, "Stormwater: From the Ground Up". We will be working with LWVIL and LWV-Lake Michigan Region to present this program which will include their general in-

formation along with our local specifics and speakers. As the spring rains fall, with yards and houses flooding, this will be a timely presentation. Be sure to attend.



Stormwater...where does it go, and who drinks it?

Everybody Loves a Parade!

But, not everyone has such a golden opportunity to be in one! Here's a chance to live out your dream of marching to a different drummer down main street, have great fun, AND promote your League all at the same time!



Liz is looking for volunteers to participate in the following parades:

July 4 in Lake Bluff

August 6 in Lake Forest

Please call Liz at 847-234-1612 if you can help!

Money in Politics: Why It Matters by Judy Grisamore

On a cold and rainy night, (March 27) about 50 interested and concerned citizens opted to venture out from their cozy firesides to attend an informative and important presentation "Money in Politics: Why It Matters." Susan Garrett, our former State Senator, and Kathy

co-sponsored the program. CED is a non-profit, non-partisan, business-led public policy organization that delivers well-researched analysis about the country's most critical issues. They have a long history of working on political corruption.



Cindi Canary, David Morrison, Mike Petro, and Amy Loprest

Ryg, former State Representative, planned the program. While both are familiar with having to raise money for campaigns, both now combat the ramifications of money in politics.

The Committee for Economic Development (CED) from Washington D.C.,

While the media is over-filled with discussions about alleged mis-candidates' campaign

finances, or concern some candidate's using donated monies for personal use, other candidates can barely afford the most minimal minutes for a television announcement. As the song says, "It's a puzzlement."

Cindi Canary, former Executive Director of LWV Illinois, acted as moderator for the discussion. Three presenters spoke about the possible ways to approach the dilemma of what seems to be more a need for finances rather than government reform. The three participants included David Morrison, policy advisor for political reform; Amy Loprest, Executive Director for New York City Campaign Finance Board; and Mike Petro, Executive Vice President for the Committee for Economic Development.

A lively Q & A followed the presentation that easily could have lasted for an hour had the presenters not had to move on. I, for one, felt the information was well worth the journey into the dark night. Money and politics are too close a relationship and need constant scrutiny.

Yes, For Independent Maps

Over the years, you probably have heard many complaints about the redistricting process. The current redistricting practice in Illinois is closed, secretive, partisan, and protects incumbents. Changing it has been a priority issue for the League for many years.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois is supporting the nonpartisan grassroots campaign *Yes for Independent Maps* to place the *Illinois Independent Redistricting Amendment* on the November 2014 General Election ballot. In order to have the amendment put on the ballot, over 300,000 signatures on petitions had to be gathered.

A number of LWV-LF/LB members had been successful in asking friends and family to sign. But things really took off when the City of Lake Forest

passed a resolution in February encouraging residents to become educated about the issue.

After our League's name was referenced in the City's press release, we received numerous calls and emails requesting to either sign the petition or to join in passing petitions. Pauline Mohr and Liz Bradner answered many of the requests in their areas.

Patricia Simmons, Jr. Commander at American Legion McKinlock Post 264 in Lake Forest, contacted Mary Mathews about speaking at one of their meetings. At their monthly dinner meeting

March, Mary and Paula Lawson, LWVIL issue specialist, addressed a very warm and welcoming crowd. The response has been very positive.

As we go to press, *Yes for Independent Maps* leaders announced that enough signatures were collected. Volunteers are in the process of loading a semitrailer to deliver the petitions to Springfield. They do expect lawsuits objecting to some aspect of the petitions; so, the amendment is not yet guaranteed to be on the ballot. We vote *Yes* for independent maps!



Paula Lawson, LWVIL

Graduated Rate Income Tax by Kathy Clay

On January 28th, with a temperature reading of minus 8 on my car dashboard, I headed to Lake Forest for a presentation on efforts to place a graduated rate income tax referendum on the November ballot. This is a priority issue for the state League.



Janet Kittlaus and Jane Ballengee explain the proposed Fair Tax

sembly must pass a bill by May 4, 2014 calling for a referendum to be placed on the Nov. 4, 2014 General Election.

With that in mind, we went to our cars, noted that the temperature had risen to zero and with renewed enthusiasm and "true grit" went forward to spread the

P.S. In March, Diane Sanderson and Tom Meskel had a very successful meeting with their state representative, Sam Yingling. Rep. Yingling agreed to support a "Fair Tax" and will encourage other local state legislators.

The presenters were Jane Ballengee from LWV-Glenview and Janet Kittlaus from LWV-Evanston. They made an excellent case for why Illinois income taxes are UNFAIR, INFLEXIBLE, AND INADEQUATE, and why a graduated rate income tax would benefit the economy, families, and education. There was much discussion on how to achieve the goal and meet various deadlines.

Both houses of the Illinois General As-

Mary Mathews called both State Senator Julie Morrison and State Representative Scott Drury. Rep. Drury has had meetings with a number of supporters of a Fair Tax and with Mary Mathews. Drury expressed legitimate concerns about the proposed tax schedule, overall Illinois fiscal policy, unpaid bills, and public trust. He has not said how he will vote.

Leaguers Interview Legislators by Liz Bradner

We thought our legislators should tell us their positions on several key LWVIL issues, especially with the election coming in November. So, on March 21 we met with State Representative Scott Drury and on March 24 with State Senator Julie Morrison, and for reinforce-

ments and to save the legislators' time,



Scott Drury



Julie Morrison

we brought along Leaguers from Highland Park, Deerfield, and Glencoe. The hour was hardly enough to cover education funding, fracking, criminal justice, reproductive rights, etc. There was no time for Irish blarney, and you can read the summary on our website.

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Comprehensive Plan and Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital

One of our local League positions supports the City of Lake Forest's Comprehensive Plan. When Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital decided to redevelop its property with a



new hospital, League members followed the progress and wrote the Plan Commission and City Council about the Comprehensive Plan's provisions. There were a number of problems initially, but over time, were worked out. A ma-

jor concern was for permanently preserved open space, especially in the form of setbacks. The League is pleased that neighbors will not have to worry that future development may encroach on their properties and that the natural character of Lake Forest is preserved.

Sue Hood

We wish to memorialize Sue Hood, who passed away at home in April. She was a valued member of the Lake Forest

Community and especially the League, most recently for her contributions to our gun control efforts. We will miss

her voice and input. We are grateful to her husband Lloyd for his willingness to continue to help us.

LWVUS and LWVIL Updates

Being part of a national organization gives us a wider perspective of various issues and a larger canvas to work on. While as members of a local chapter, we are concerned about what may impact

implement the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) as part of the Affordable Care Act. Since the Health Exchanges are public assistance agencies, under the NVRA, they must provide voter registration opportunities.



The League of Women Voters in the 1920s

us within our immediate communities, we also learn and act on those issues at the state and national levels. We come together with other League members and learn from them, share with them, and celebrate victories with them (and bemoan defeats). Often, victories seem to take too long or are short-lived. Such is the world of non-profits and trying to improve government.

The League was born from the fight for voting rights and continues the fight today. LWVUS is working with local and state Leagues to overturn voter ID legislation while trying to restore the Voting Rights Act in Congress. The League also has joined with other organizations to encourage the Obama Administration to

was the Counsel of Record.

The League continued its focus on defending the environment. Jessica Jones, LWV Grassroots Advocacy Manager, attended a White House meeting with environmental, public health, and civil rights leaders and discussed progress with the President's Climate Action Plan. The League considers carbon pollution a major source of climate change. LWVUS supports the proposed carbon pollution regulation for new power plants and sent over 31,000 comments from members. (SO, YES, when LWVUS sends you an alert,

respond! It does matter.) When a new proposed rule comes out in June for regulations on existing power plants, the League again will build support and collect comments from members. Do your part; we are a grassroots organization.

LWVIL also was busy with advocacy. Jane Partridge, Mary Mathews, Liz Bradner, and Joy Guscott-Mueller attended the annual Issues Briefing and learned more about the topics LWVIL is following. Workshops about Graduated Rate Income Tax, Redistricting, Fracking, Stormwater, and gun violence were held. Over the last few months, LWVIL has emailed numerous "Time For Action" alerts regarding the "Fair



Tax" (graduated rate income tax), fracking, and the redistricting amendment. LWVIL co-sponsored debates in the primary and will do so again for the general election in the fall.

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(They say that repetition works, so no excuses!)

MAY 2014

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

P.O. Box 645

Lake Forest, IL 60045

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area

Still Going Strong Since 1926!



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*Lake Forest
Lake Bluff Area
Lake Forest IL 60045*

6004535115

Calendar

Thurs. June 12, Lake Forest
LWV-LF/LB Annual Meeting

Friday, July 4, Lake Bluff
Parade Opportunity

Wednesday, August 6, Lake Forest
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LEAGUE LINES

FALL 2014

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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Soon frost upon the pumpkin
And kids who trick and treat,
Comes then old cold November
Wool socks to warm my feet
While walking to the ballot box
To vote my chosen sheet;
Now gone the din of robo-calls
Now silence, oh how sweet!

Common Core and Conversation

Many parents and grandparents are worried about how the Common Core standards will change the curriculum in public schools. Will they still teach to the high standards we expect? Will local schools rather than the federal government still control curriculum design? The answer given to both questions was "Yes" and "Yes."

Common Core evolved from a 2007 meeting of the National Governors Association and an association of state school officials. It was a response to problems with the "No Child Left Behind Act." Adoption of the standards is voluntary at the state and local level.

An audience of 48 heard Lauren Fagan, District 115 Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology; and Dr. Kevin Rubenstein, District 67 Director of Curriculum, how the standards are being implemented in reading and math. Soon to follow will be standards in social science, physical science, etc. The



Ms. Fagan, Dr. Rubenstein

ISAT will be phased testing of the common phased in. Skills will be covered more in depth rather than more skills more superficially.

serious, we enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres provided by Fresh Market and the Guscott-Muellers. It was reconnect with members after the summer and meet prospective members. Thanks to Linda Bartmes and Wyn Cain for coordinating it all.



For more information: A 2011 study of Common Core can be found at the LWV-US site, lww.org. The Southern Poverty Law Center has an excellent 2014 study titled *Public Schools in the Crosshairs (Far-Right Propaganda and the Common Core State Standards)* on their site, www.splcenter.org.

Carrie Chapman Catt Award

Nominations are invited for the *Carrie Chapman Catt Local Leadership Award*, to be given at the Holiday Luncheon. Each year we honor a member for her outstanding leadership and significant action in promoting the League's mission. The nominee's efforts should benefit Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area residents



by promoting awareness of public issues and wider participation in the democratic process. The award is named in honor of the prominent suffragist and national League founder. Members may submit nominations to the Board by Nov. 1. Members of the Board are not eligible to receive the award.

Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear League Members:

What a September we had! A candidate debate, a program, a fall kick-off with a program, three voter registration events, and a board meeting. These were highs; the low was the cancellation of our Congressional debate because our congressman was not available.

Now we are planning our December 4th Holiday Luncheon. It will feature Barry Bradford's program on "Women Who Have Run for President." What an experience that would be!

We'll gather at The Grille on Laurel at 10:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 11:00 and have lunch afterward.

Look for an invitation in the mail, and save the date because we hope for a large turnout.

Let's have a large voter turnout on Nov. 4. Much is at stake in Lake County, Springfield and Washington.

—Liz and Wyn

Constitutional and Legislative Ballot Issues

The November 4 ballot will ask voters two constitutional questions which will become law if voters approve them.

The first proposed amendment, "Right to Vote," would prohibit voter discrimination and is aimed at preventing such possibilities as requiring photo identification to vote. The League supports this measure.

The second proposed amendment, "Crime Victims' Bill of Rights," would give crime victims several rights: to be notified of all court proceedings involving their alleged offenders; to be heard in court on any post-arrestment release decision, plea or sentencing; to have their safety considered in determining bail and release of a defendant; and finally to testify on any request for personal records of the defendant.

However, many believe the constitution provides adequate protection as written and that it is not clear how the proposed

amendment would affect due process. The League has not taken a position on this measure.

There are also three advisory questions which would require legislative passage. The League supports two and has not taken a position on the third.

1. Minimum Wage—Proposes raising the Illinois minimum wage from \$8.25 to \$10.00 per hour. The current minimum provides an annual salary below the Federal Poverty Level for a family of three. The League supports this proposal.

2. Women's Health—Proposes requiring health insurance plans which provide prescription drug coverage to cover prescription birth control. The League strongly supports this proposal, believing in the right of women to make reproductive health choices.

3. Tax for Education (aka the Mil-

lionaire's Tax)—An additional 3% tax would be levied on individual incomes over \$1,000,000 with the proceeds earmarked for education. The League has not taken a position on this proposal.

The need to provide adequate funding for education is recognized, but past actions of the State Legislature do not inspire confidence that additional tax income would be used for that purpose. Also, the language specifying income level and rate imposes limiting restrictions which could affect future needs. The League strongly supports a graduated rate income tax as a solution.

The state League site, www.lwvl.org, has voter guides together with position statements and background information. Another helpful site is [Vote411](http://Vote411.org), which provides information based on a voters home address. This LWVUS site, www.vote411.org, is an excellent resource for providing answers to voting questions.

Welcome New Members, Current Members Renew!

Welcome to our new members: Dave Cain, Helen Potsic, Barbara Hetler, Bonnie McNeill and Kira Alvarez. We hope you will find our program and mission worthwhile and worthy of your energy and effort!

Our ability to organize programs and debates, to interview legislators, register voters, and respond to calls for action from the state and national Leagues depends on our members. There is strength in numbers! New members, including men (we now have six), are

always welcome and important to our League. Since members are our best recruiters, tell your friends and family members how meaningful and enjoyable League participation is. Your continued participation is important. Be sure to renew your membership now!

When Women Succeed...

The *Lake County News-Sun* and the *Lake Forester* recently printed the following letter from League member Stephanie Victor. It deserves reprinting!

Vote for equal pay

Over 85 years after gaining the right to vote, women still face staggering wage discrimination in the workplace, making 77 cents to every \$1 a man makes for the same work. In 1996, as one of only two female engineers working for the Midwest's largest engineering firm, I discovered I was making 15 percent less than the guy next to me. He had a technical certificate from a community college, only did office retrofits, and never wore a suit. I guess the rationale was, he did have a family to feed while I had a

husband.

Pay equity is more important than ever. Many of us live in two, working-parent homes or have daughters who do. At a time when our families are being squeezed and when every dollar matters, why do women not deserve the same rights as men in the workplace when we contribute to our households just the same?

In April, our own Sen. Mark Kirk voted to block debate on the Paycheck Fairness Act and House Republicans won't even bring it up for a vote. Bob Dold, who is running for Congress in the 10th District, voted seven times against women. While we may not yet have equality



Stephanie Victor with Nancy Pelosi at a Fair Pay rally

at the workplace, we do have equality in the ballot box and should be exercising that right come November. I encourage everyone to either vote by mail, early vote or come out on Election Day. When women succeed, America suc-

-Stephanie A. Victor
Lake Forest

September 28 Candidate Forum Report

The Candidate Forum Committee, comprised of representatives of the Leagues of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, Highland Park/Highwood, Deerfield and Glenview, organized a Candidates' Forum held at Dickinson Hall in Lake Forest on Sunday, September 28, 2014. Candidates for Lake County offices and the 58th Illinois House District participated.

An interested audience of approximately 100 attended the presentations of

candidates for State Representative, County Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer and Regional Superintendent of Schools. Lali Watt, a member of the Wilmette League, moderated the forum and asked questions submitted by the audience.

Lake Forest TV recorded the event for future broadcast. Lake Forest Bank and American Legion of Highland Park co-sponsored this event. Google "Lake

Forest TV" for broadcast times.

The Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Candidate Forum Committee plans to schedule similar forums prior to the April 2015 Consolidated Elections. These will provide venues for local citizens to become educated voters about candidates seeking local public offices for contested school board, municipal and park district offices.

-Terry Desmond

10th Congressional District Candidates

Four local Leagues tried to provide 10th District voters with a chance to meet their congressional candidates in a forum. We believe that voters can make more informed decisions when they are given the opportunity to both see the candidates in person and hear the candidates as they respond to questions

from the audience.

Instead, Congressman Brad Schneider and former Congressman Robert Dold participated in a televised debate sponsored by the LWVIL and ABC7 (WLS). It was taped on October 18 at the ABC7 studios for broadcast on October 19.

This is the matchup that four local Leagues tried unsuccessfully to hold at Deerfield High School before 10th District voters. A few 10th District League volunteers were invited to staff the debate. Among those attending were Jo-An Sabonjian, Diane Sanderson, Wyn and Liz. (See picture on p. 7)

LWVIL State of the State – 2014

The Role of the Media in 21st Century American Democracy was the program for the League of Women Voters of Illinois State of the State luncheon held Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at the Union League Club of Chicago. Our League members (Wyn Cain, Joy Guscott-Mueller, Cindy Morehead, Steve and Helen Potsic) joined other League members and guests to socialize and participate in the panel discussion.



David Kohn, Randi Belisomo, Kristen McQueary, and Amanda Vinicky

The panel discussion was moderated by David Kohn, Executive Director of Public Affairs at the Union League Club of Chicago. The panelists were Randi Belisomo, General Assignment Reporter with WGN-TV; Kristen McQueary with the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board; and Amanda Vinicky, Statehouse

Bureau Chief of WUIS Radio.

This annual event celebrates the League's accomplishments. Proceeds from the luncheon support the Education Fund and its mission of civic edu-

cation and voter service. Our League won a free ad in the event program because Mary turned in our annual report on time.

-Wyn Cain

Stormwater From The Ground Up

The final program on stormwater was presented September 14th at the Joint Action Water Agency (water plant) in Lake Bluff. It was funded by an Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources grant to the League of Women Voters of Illinois. About 40 attendees heard Larry McCot-

ter of Lake Bluff Open Lands Association; Sandy Hart, Stormwater Management Commission; Bill Soucie of JAWA; and Krista Grimm of the League of Women Voters. They covered what causes flooding and beach closure, and what gray and green infrastructure are. We heard about the negative effects of pollution on wildlife and water. We learned how rain barrels collect water for later use on lawns, how permeable pavement

channels water into the ground, and how even commercial car washes use less water than owner-washing because wastewater is recycled.

Then we toured the water plant. It was amazing how many treatment tanks process the water before it is safe for drinking, and how automated the process is. All this for tap water we take for granted! Thanks to Carol Russ for organizing this event.



LWVIL Actions

Our state partner opposes a school voucher program which would give public funds to private schools. State League President Mary Kubasak's letter to the *Chicago Tribune* affirms the position that "...public schools, while not perfect, are the vehicles that best provide the education that our children

need to become contributing citizens."

Other positions include opposition to term limits, support for efforts to relieve climate change, addressing stormwater damage, protection of voting rights, support for EPA hearings on carbon pollution and the use of on-line voter

registration.

The League is co-sponsoring candidate debates for the 10th Congressional district (ours), the 11th Congressional district, the governor and the US Senate. Details of these events are posted on the LWVIL website (www.lwvil.org).

LWV-Lake County Report



Lake county candidates appeared at an October 8 candidate forum at the Round Lake Beach Cultural and Civic Center. It was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lake County, Round Lake Area Library, Mano a Mano, WRLR 98.3 FM, and the Round Lake Area Exchange Club.

Questions to candidates were submitted by members of the audience and collected by League members, and read by moderator Gilda Karu of Arlington Heights. Mano a Mano had invited new citizens who had taken classes at their facility. They also provided Spanish language translation services. The forum was broadcast live on WRLR and tele-

vised by Comcast for rebroadcast at various times before the election.

The moderator was chosen from outside the 10th Congressional

District in consideration of invitations issued federal candidates for office. Unfortunately, since agreements were not obtained from both candidates, Lake County voters were unable to see and ask questions of them in a "live" setting.

-Diane Sanderson



Money In Politics

The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform presented a program on campaign finance, and Jean Brown, Liz and Wyn attended. Campaign Chairperson Susan Garrett introduced the panel: Don



Prof. Gaines, Mary Schaaftma

Rose, political consultant; Brian Gaines, Professor, U of I, Champaign; Mary Schaaftma, Executive Director, LWV Illinois; and Wayne Steger, Professor of

Political Science, DePaul University. The moderator was Dick Simpson, Professor, U of I, Chicago.

Following the Supreme Court Citizens United

decision, which allowed more money to flow into campaigns without disclosure, television ads have become a "monster" according to the panel. Former State

Representative Lauren Beth Gash stated that even legislators who favor public financing of campaigns have to accept contributions from political leaders and PAC's until the system is changed since they need this money to win.

Redistricting reform would help, but citizen initiatives are not allowed under the Illinois Constitution and state legislators are unwilling to pass a constitutional amendment. The best hope seems to be a grassroots campaign for a small donor matching system.

Voter Registration

The Newcomers' fall luncheon on September 18th at Conway Farms Golf Club was a great place for League to register voters. Thanks to advance publicity, one guest brought her documents and enthusiastically signed up. Another already-registered voter indicated in-

terest in joining League; so, we were glad to spread our message. September 23rd was National Voter Registration Day, and Stephanie Victor and Kitty Lansing registered commuters from 6-8 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. at the West Lake Forest train station (East Lake Forest's

station was under renovation and unavailable). Now we need all registered voters to vote! Stephanie's Letter to the Editor of the *Lake Forester* (see page 3) reminded us that we'll get equal pay for women only if women vote for candidates who support it.

Oodles of Noodles!

Pad Thai, Pesto Cavatappi, Bangkok Curry...twenty-eight League members and their guests enjoyed them during the first week of September at Noodles & Company, a casual restaurant in Lake Bluff offering international and Amer-

ican noodle dishes. Sandwiches and salads were also available.

Eleven Board members sold \$10 coupons for an entree and drink at the new restaurant off Waukegan Road and 176. In addition, online orders at Noodles.com were available. What a great way to add over a thousand dollars to our treasury!

The fundraiser will

NOODLES
COMPANY

help pay for candidate forums, room rentals and speakers for programs open to the public. Please try out Noodles & Company and thank them for their generous donation to the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff League.

Thanks to the members who contributed to our cause by purchasing coupons!

-Ann Grant

LWV Lake Michigan Region Update

LWV Lake Michigan Region held its annual business meeting October 3rd-5th. Gifted speakers discussed biome shifts at Sleeping Bear Dunes, the health of Lake Michigan's fisheries, and the effects of recent weather trends on the region. This year's convocation was held in downtown Traverse City, foot-

steps from Grand Traverse Bay. Field trips to the Inland Seas Education Center and paddling on the Boardman River were real crowd-pleasers. LWVLMR's Annual Meeting is always crisply brief; President Hank Saunders and Secretary Cheryl Chapman graciously accepted new terms. The four US states

(Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois) that border Lake Michigan take turns hosting the annual conference. Illinois will organize and host next year's event.

-Carol Russ

Assault Weapons Press Release

A federal court upheld Highland Park's ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and we commented publicly to the media:

"The League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area was gratified to read that a US District Court found Highland Park's ordinance banning assault weapons and high capacity maga-

zines does not violate the Second Amendment and can be enforced. The League testified, along with many other residents, before the Lake Forest City Council in the summer of 2013 urging such a ban here but was unsuccessful. The Lake Bluff Village Board similarly took no action. The League agrees with the federal judge who found that such weapons have 'the decidedly offensive

purpose of quickly acquiring multiple targets and firing at those targets.' We believe assault weapons are for military use only and have no self-protection purpose in Lake Forest or Lake Bluff. State legislation now forbids enacting a ban. The City Council and the Village Board should have banned assault weapons and high capacity magazines while the window was open."

PLEASE Renew your membership NOW
We want to see YOUR NAME in the directory!

Sorry for shouting, but it's really important!

Technology Is Here To Help Us

Upgrade your personal information about our League's activities is on the website: www.lea-08.org. These activities of interest will give residents details and our programs. If there is a change in a current activity, it will be posted on the website.

If you have a Facebook page and have our "Like" or fan, please click and fill

out our page. We post information about our League activities, along with those of DAVIL, 18715, and some of our allied organizations. There is ongoing information about our three towns. Please "like" and "share" one of our posts with your friends. Leave a "comment" if you like.

If you don't have a Facebook page, you

can see our page by going to our web site: www.lea-08.org. On the left-hand side of the page, you will see a column with "Find us on Facebook" in the top 5 links. We also have our League website and you will see our Facebook page!



Facebook



League of Women Voters

Pictures!





Find us on
Facebook



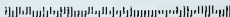
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contact@[WV].FLB.org
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Wyn Cain
1720 Marquette Ct
Lake Forest IL 60045

60045511520



Calendar

Oct. 20, Check for Location by Voting Begins

Tuesday Nov. 4, At Your Precinct
Vote!

November Program TBA
Watch for announcements!

Thursday Dec. 4, The Grille on Laurel
Holiday Luncheon

Feb. 14, 2015
LWV 95th Birthday

March 7, 2015
LWVIL Issues Briefing

March, 2015
Women's History Month

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."

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Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area
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LEAGUE LINES

SPRING 2015

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

2015-2016 Program Planning

Inside this issue:

- Program Planning
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- Gun Program
Climate Action Toolkit
- Calendar 8

Fortified with cake, coffee and tea at Wyn Cain's house on March 11, we set about planning our program for 2015-16. At the state level, members wanted to study term limits,



Liz, Joy & Linda

believing too much power is concentrated in the leadership in the Illinois legislature. The state board Issues Committee then wrote to ask if members in League would participate in or chair a committee. Are you interested?



David & Steve



Ann & Ann

We recommend, to the annual meeting, participation in the LWVUS studies of Money in Politics and the Convention process to amend the US constitution. At the local level, we want to drop the land use position and update

servation position.

should be climate change/clean air gun viol-

defense, fiscal policy and tax reform.

We will be covering campaign finance reform with the LWVUS study.



Marilyn & Wyn

Annual Meeting

Can you believe the League year is almost over? We'll be summing up and charting year on June 16th at C Morehead's, 14 Forest Road, Lake Bluff. Come at 5 P.M. for a delicious catered dinner. Then we need your input to adopt a local program

of study and action, adopt the budget, elect officers, directors and members of the Nominating Committee, and review the bylaws and nonpartisan policy.

This organization depends on you to guide it. See you there!

In just-spring when the world is mud-luscious the little lame balloonman

whistles far and wee

and eddies and bills come running from marbles and pinwheels and it's spring ...

e.e. cummings
(excerpt)



Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear Leaguers,

It's been a busy last few months as you will read in this newsletter. Liz and I were happy to see so many of you at our League events. We continue to be impressed with the interest and participation that is shown at these gatherings.

Many of you ask thoughtful questions that show a real concern for the issues presented. We encourage you to continue to voice your opinions and share with the board your interests.

The League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area makes a difference because of your willingness

to learn about issues and share a nonpartisan view.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 16.

-WynCain and Liz Bradner

Water: What Are We Drinking?

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area presented an afternoon program on Sunday, February



Betsy Warren & Carol Shook

22, 2015 at Hotchkiss Hall at Lake Forest College. Members of the League, college students and community members learned details about where we get our water, how it is treated, problems that affect our water and what we can do about it.

Beth Kosson, Education Director of Ecomyths Alliance whose mission is to inspire people to make eco-friendly choices, gave the presentation. Beth has a double major in environmental science and geography at University.

The presentation with learning about our water comes from. Of particular in-

terest was learning that our water which is purchased from the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (JAWA), which is a state-of-the-art treatment agency. It treats our water for more compounds than are required by the EPA.

Also of interest was knowing the harm caused by pesticides and fertilizers that are added to our lawns. Water that comes from the surface ground collects pesticides and fertilizers that present problems to us and plant and animal life.

Fertilizers and pesticides are found in 80% of fish and 33% of the aquifers in the ground. Safe solutions to replace these fertilizers and pesticides follow: make your own homegrown pesticide solutions; use row covers to control weeds; add nitrogen to lawns by leaving grass clippings and leaves; keep grass three inches tall; buy phosphorus-free fertilizer.

Another topic concerned levels of mercury in water. Visual presentations showed how important it is to have a low level of mercury in Lake Michigan and other

bodies of water. Small fish with dangerously high mercury levels are then consumed by larger fish. This results in a process called bioaccumulation. When the larger fish are consumed by humans, the high level of mercury can be problematic.

Climate change also has a direct effect on water. The impact of rising temperatures of our oceans and lakes is especially important.

Rising temperatures impact aquatic ecosystems, the water cycle, drought, floods, and rising sea levels. A 2012 study on freshwater fisheries projected that cold-water habitat could shrink by as much as 50% by the end of this century because of rising temperatures.

Finally, atmospheric pollution is absorbed by the lake water and affects its chemistry and purity.

This program can be viewed online by using this link: "Water: Just What are we Drinking?"

<http://youtu.be/W8D6s0moEek>



Beth Kosson & Wyn Cain



Beth Kosson

Legislative Interviews

"Very interesting" was the reaction of Leaguers to interviews of Senator Julie Morrison on March 6 and Representative Scott Drury on March 13. We met them in their offices and posed questions from the state League to be directed to all state senators and legislators by their League constituents. We



Sen. Julie Morrison

teamed up with the Highland Park/Highwood and Deerfield Leagues.

Sen. Morrison supports the millionaire's tax and a sales tax on services, but not on professional services, based on feedback from her

constituents.

On school funding, Rep. Drury sees strong support in his district for special

education. He stressed that parent support determines school success as well as per pupil spending. Human services is Sen. Morrison's biggest interest and her goal is to keep funding from decreasing; increasing is unrealistic.

Criminal justice is Rep. Drury's specialty, as a former prosecutor. He favors treatment rather than incarceration of mentally ill inmates, and he thinks both parties and "big Pharma" agree. He realizes that if a released inmate commits a violent crime, it could defeat the program.

Redistricting that does not favor political parties would receive the support of both legislators, but they see it as unrealistic. Both would vote for an independent commission to draw the districts.

Election laws: Sen. Morrison wants to make it as easy and fast to vote as possible. Rep. Drury predicts that eventually people will vote from home.

Both support the Clean Power Plan for Illinois and the moratorium on fracking. Rep. Drury notes that because oil prices fell, no one is fracking in Illinois.

Both would vote for limiting an individual's access to firearms when there are indications that that person is at risk for violence.

Moving Medicaid patients into managed care would receive support from Sen. Morrison but Rep. Drury is not yet convinced.



Rep. Scott Drury

Moving Illinois to a state health care exchange is not supported unless federal subsidies would be provided because Illinois is broke.

Fiscal Forum

Representative Scott Drury gave an outstanding run-down of the state's fiscal prospects at a discussion on February 11 at the First Presbyterian Church. Over a hundred people heard him answer questions from the League and attendees. Melanie Rummel ably moderated the event. The LWVHP/HW and LWV Deerfield co-sponsored. Lake Forest TV videotaped it for broadcast on cable.



Rep. Drury, Melanie Rummel, Liz Bradner

Rep. Drury acknowledged that projected revenue falls far short of expenses at

current levels. He did not favor taxing retirement income, the millionaire's tax, or a tax on all services. He voted against the graduated income tax last year because the proposal was revenue neutral, and therefore wouldn't have solved the fiscal problem.

He said the state Supreme Court would determine the future of pension reform. He believes spending on incarceration could be cut if minor offenders were not put in jail.

State Convention

Liz and Wyn are looking forward to the LWVIL biennial convention Naperville June 5-7, to meet Leaguers from all over the state and hear they are doing. Jane Partridge will also attend. State League Conventions



present a wonderful opportunity to meet creative Leaguers from all over the state who are eager to share their ideas. Let us know if you would like to go as well. The experience will be well worth your time!

LWVIL Issues Briefing



The annual Issues Briefing was very enlightening for Wyn, Liz and Jane Partidge. Held by the LWVIL at the University Center in Chicago, it was a day of two plenary sessions and a choice of six workshops. The first plenary on Fiscal Issues Confronting Illinois reprised our own Climbing Out of Debt forum on Feb. 11. Ralph Marzette, Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, gave figures on the state's fiscal plight. He pointed out that nine states with the highest graduated income tax grew their economies more than those with no income tax during the period 2000-2012. Adjusted for inflation and population growth, our state spends 28% less on services than it did in FY2000. Finally, the governor's budget for 2016 only reduces the annual deficit from \$6.8 billion to \$6.5 billion despite drastic cuts in human services and higher education. The League believes something must be done to increase revenue.

At a workshop on Criminalization of Mental Illness, Dr. Nneka Jones Tapia of the Cook County Department of Corrections described the prevalence of mental illness in inmates in Cook County Jail. When drugs to stabilize mental illness became available in the 1970's, and because state mental hospitals had become so problematic and costly, mentally ill patients were released to the streets. Unable to work, they committed crimes of survival including retail theft, destruction of property, and trespassing. Now there are 1.3 million people incarcerated with mental illness. At Cook County jail, they receive 150-300 new incarcerations each day and 20-

30% of them have mental illness. They release 20-30 inmates mentally ill persons per day, most with no reentry plans. We need better crisis intervention for law enforcement, legislation to deal with treatment non-compliance, and more community reentry planning, such as housing and employment, or these patients will soon be back in jail.

Effective advocacy was addressed by State Representative Robin Gabel. She stated that proposed bills, including the actual language, often come from constituents, as well as special interests, and legislative staff. It's worthwhile to promote your ideas! It's important to get to know your legislator and see what you can do for them as well as ask support for them. When you've scheduled a meeting with them, be prepared with supporting materials and answers to counter-arguments. Be prepared to negotiate and compromise with departments, legislators, and the Governor's office. Telephone calls are quick and effective. Personal letters and emails are most effective. Media hits should have a "hook" such as a story about a citizen affected by your issue. For Letters to the Editor, put your most important message in the first paragraph. Keep the letter to 100-400 words. Be assured that legislators want to pass good bills. They are influenced by media.

Wyn attended the afternoon workshop entitled, "How Human Services Are Affected By State Cutbacks" The state provides human services through three agencies: Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Department of Aging. Continuing to cut funds to these agencies will lead to future social and health problems of the growing low-income pop-

ulation in Chicago and the suburbs. Also important is the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACE) that affect generations. Adverse childhood experiences include abuse, neglect and household dysfunction. Some social consequences of ACEs are juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, depression, teen pregnancy, suicide attempts, educational failure and violence.

Since funds have declined since 2005, the safety net that provides vulnerable persons with needed services has diminished. In addition to children, adults with developmental disabilities, homebound seniors and individuals with substance abuse and mental illness continue to lose services because of additional cutbacks.

The question is asked, What can be done about curbing these cutbacks just when the need becomes greater? Becoming educated about the needs facing human services and then advocating for federal, state and local support is a start. Helping to increase local charitable giving is also important, especially in the suburbs, since Chicago receives the bulk of donated funds.

Other resources of help include: encouraging business to provide more supports for low-wage workers; encourage grassroots support, and improve philanthropic funding.



Lyn, Wyn, Jane

Campaign Finance



Carol Gayle, Sen. Morrison, Jane Partridge

It was a back-and-forth discussion on money in politics April 8 with State Senator Julie Morrison at Gorton Center. We questioned whether donations make

donors expect legislative influence. Julie said no; they didn't ask for quid pro quo. She does believe that, particularly

state representatives, have to spend an undue amount of time raising money for the election, their terms are two years.

She thinks 100% public financing of

state elections would be fine. Disclosure of Super Pac donations to state legislative

elections would also be a plus. If Illinois passed a resolution to call for a U. S. constitutional convention to overturn Citizens United, Sen. Morrison would vote for it.



Sen. Morrison, Terry Desmond

Women's History Month Panel

Women's History Month sparked a panel discussion by elected women from Highland Park and Lake Forest: Anne Bassi, West Deerfield Township Supervisor; Lauren Beth Gash, former 58th District Representative; Kathleen Knobel, Highland Park City Council; Susan Garrett, former 29th District Senator; and Margie Weiss, former Mayor of Highland Park. All had waged successful efforts to improve their communi-



ties and then, as leaders, were asked to run for office.

Some efforts require a thick skin to resist opposition. All found that when campaigning door-to-door, they found almost all voters to be appreciative and receptive. On campaign finance, they usually accepted contributions only from people they knew and did not feel pressure to vote a certain way, but they suspect this is not possible in statewide and federal elections. All find public service to be an enriching, positive experience. Who among us wants to be next?



Welcome New Members!

We are always happy to announce new and returning Leaguers. Welcome to Pat Brennan and Char Kreuz, both of Lake Forest Place, and Liz Platt of Lake Bluff.

Char recently returned to the area and rejoined the League. Pat and Liz are both new League members. We hope to get them involved quickly and and forward to their input and suggestion.



Laurel-Western Redevelopment Update



Interest remains high in the development of the former Municipal Services property. The Planning Commission reviewed a slightly altered plan from Focus Development on March 11, to a packed City Council chambers.

The plan has 172 dwelling units, of which 118 are rental. It has one four-

story building 64 feet high topped by a pitched roof. It has one road, north from Laurel with no access from it to Franklin or Western. There are entrances to underground parking from Western.

Many neighbors support development of the property but oppose the current density, elevation, and traffic pattern. Petitions were circulated and submitted at the April 15 Planning Commission meeting.

The Commission will consider the

height of the 4-story building, whether the road should go through to Franklin, and other proposals at its next meeting on May 13.



LWV-LC Update

Two of our members won their elections: Kathleen Condon Wasik for the Grayslake High School Board District 127 and Tom Meskel for the Grayslake Elementary School Board District 46. Both were endorsed by the Daily Herald.

We are following any developments regarding the Equal Rights Amendment at the state level. Representative Lou Lang brings up a joint resolution yearly. He has not introduced it yet this year as he is trying to get 71 votes. He only has about 50 right now because there are many new representatives.

We held two candidate debates, one in Hainesville for village trustees and one in Waukegan for school board. Both were well-attended. We had to cancel the Grayslake debate as lead voter service chair Diane Sanderson was hospitalized. She is better now!

A number of members conducted legislative interviews with legislators in Waukegan, Grayslake, and Round Lake.

LWVLC is part of the Clean Power

Lake County coalition. CPLC held a public program April 8 with Sen. Julie Morrison at the Most Blessed Trinity Academy. She discussed the Clean Jobs legislation that can make Illinois a leader in clean energy by boosting energy efficiency, renewable energy, and a cap and invest program. Also this will create an estimated 32,000 jobs per year here in Illinois. Issues specialists at LWVIL are watching this bill and probably will support it.

Our Annual Meeting will be June 25, at a place to be determined. LWV-IL/LB can send three voting delegates, in addition to the members on the LWV-LC board. We will vote on bylaws, budget and nominations. We will not vote on Program this year as that was determined last year on our two-year schedule.

ERA

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Goodbye to Leaguers

We are sorry to report the passing of Mary Beattie and Phyllis Albrecht. They had both given long and valuable

service to the League. Phyllis served as our president from 1990-94 and was the recipient of our first Carrie Chapman

Catt award in 2013. She had recently moved to Maryland. We offer our sympathy to their families.

Our Growing Threat From Guns in the 21st Century

"Every three hours a real bullet hits a real child."

"Teddy bears have more federal manufacturing regulations than real guns."

These are just two of the unsettling banner headlines on the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV) website. We are pleased to announce an upcoming program on the topic of gun-related violence. Our presenters will be Mr. Mark Walsh, Campaign Director for

the ICHV, and Mr. Robert E. Spiel, who retired from the FBI after 20 years specializing in art-related cases. Mr. Spiel has since worked as an art-security consultant.

The program is scheduled for Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 P.M., at the Church of the Holy Spirit, 400 E. Westminster, Lake Forest. Following the presentation, a moderator will present written questions submitted from the audience.

Please mark your calendars for this timely and important program!



Among 23 populous, high-income countries, 80% of all firearm deaths occurred in the United States

Climate Change Comes Home

A recent Daily Herald letter to the editor from a Lake Bluff resident about climate change has generated over 108 comments. Considering the

LVV's strong and consistent positions on this and related topics, a review of the League's resources seems timely.

LVV.org has a very helpful collection of articles, facts and suggestions for action appropriately called the "Toolkit for Climate Action." You can find it by using the search window on the lvv.org website. The basic premise follows.

"Global climate change is one of the most serious threats facing our nation and our planet today. Increasingly severe



consequences are projected for more people and more regions of the world unless we act now -- as individuals, as communities, and as a nation. For its part, the League is calling for prompt action to cut this country's GHG emissions, set limits on carbon pollution from new and existing power plants, invest in a clean energy economy, and help the world's poorest countries tackle the challenges of climate change."

The League has been actively seeking to protect the environment since the 1960s. It has worked tirelessly to promote enactment of laws to ensure clean air and water, and has lobbied in favor of the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory powers.

The toolkit includes a guide to its effective use, beginning with "Choosing a Role for You League." Next is a list of "grassroots"



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS

Help Protect the Planet

actions which can be easily done at the local League level.

Part III provides a brief but comprehensive set of resources, including scientific evidence,

causes and impacts of climate change. The remaining parts provide suggestions about involving the public both individually and through promoting public policy.

Finally, the Resources section provides a wealth of evidence-backed material supporting all levels of the topic. There is even a selection of "Resources for Younger Children." But, think about it... protecting our climate is all for the sake of our younger children, and their children, and so on!



League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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Calendar

- May 13: Board Meeting, LF Bank
 May 21: Program: Threat from Guns in the 21st Century
 May 22: Annual Meeting Packets sent
 May 25: Memorial Day
 June 5-7: LWVIL Convention; call if interested in attending
 June 16: Annual Meeting, Cindy Morehead's
 June 25: Annual Meeting of LWV-Lake County
 July 4: Lake Bluff 4th of July parade
 August 5: Lake Forest Day, LWV marchers needed

Please Check the web site for times and locations!
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Candi Ross	E-Alerts, LWV-LMR Liaison
Stephanie Victor	Voter Registration
Mark Swanson	Webmaster
David Sanderson	Newsletter Editor
Stan Sanderson	Newsletter Publisher

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."



LEAGUE LINES

SUMMER 2015

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

LWVIL

Convention Report

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Waukegan Harb 4 July Parade

LWV Lk. Michigan Report

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Shine on me, sunshine
Rain on me, rain
Fall softly, dewdrops
And cool my brow again.

Storm, blow me from here
With your fiercest wind
Let me float across the sky
'Til I can rest again.

-from "Woman Work"
by Maya Angelou



Liz & Wyn at the Convention

Liz Bradner and Wyn Cain attended the LWVIL State Convention at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton along with Mary Mathews, Linda Bartmes, and Jeanne Kearby. They heard Kathleen Conlon-Wasik's presentation on the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS) with Rebecca Levin, Strategic Director, Lurie Children's Hospital Chicago. This reporting system is providing data that will help create effective policy for preventing violence and saving lives.



2015-17 LWVIL Board of Directors

At another session we learned from a group of young women who advocate for social media. They primarily use social media to inform others of issues to engage in supporting social justice.

We received copies of the Independent Redistricting Amendment petitions and instructions on how to complete them.

By April 2016, 600,000 signatures must be obtained to ensure there are 300,000 valid ones. Only registered Illinois voters can sign, and each petition page must be notarized.

Changes were made to the Per Member Payment fees during the business

of the convention. After much discussion the decision was to keep the Per Member Payment (PMP) fee for 2015-16 at \$27.00. However, for the next year (2016-17) the PMP fee will be raised to \$30.00.

Our League was recognized at the convention for increasing our membership by 16% this last year!

Relaxing!



Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear League members,

One might think the League would lose momentum over the summer, but the opportunities to learn keep coming. We recently learned about the quality of Lake Michigan water and its protection; we are planning for next year's programs and action areas; and we advertised our work by participating in two parades! With the ease of getting around in this glorious weather, it requires little effort to pack one's calendar.

We, as members, need to be thinking about inviting prospective members to our Fall Kickoff Social on Sunday, September 13th. We know they will want to influence their government at the local, state and national levels through the League. Also plan to attend our fundraiser at Potbelly Sandwich Shop, Lake Bluff, on Saturday, September

19th, 5 to 8 PM. That will be a come-anytime event with family and/or friends so that our League can receive 25% of the check. Such a deal for our Ed Fund! (Thank you, Potbelly!)

With two national studies, five action areas, and our social events, we're going to need the participation of every active member. Please share your interests and time availability on your renewal form.

Wyn and Liz



Annual Meeting Wrap Up

At Cindy Morehead's lovely home, with Linda Bartnes' lovely (awesomely) hospitality, we met on June 16th to sum up the prior year and plan for the next.

The program will include national studies of money in politics the convention process of amending the U.S. Constitution. Both studies will be started in the fall. Consensus reports are due to LWVUS by February 1, 2016 for the former and by December 1 for the latter.



Board Meeting July 8

We plan to take action on climate change, health care, gun violence prevention and state fiscal policy during the year, and to keep eyes on affordable housing, the Comprehensive Plan, and Land Use/Trans-

portation.

We elected Sharon Borg and David Mueller to our board and reelected Marilyn Turchi, Joy Guscott-Mueller, Steve Potsic, Linda Bartnes, Jean Brown, Ann Grant, and Judy Grisamore. We are looking for someone to fill the publicity position.

Our balanced budget absorbed an increase in per member payment to national and projected an increase in program expenses over this year's actual expenditure. We intend to be more active in the areas of education and advocacy.



Gun Violence Program



Who can be opposed to reducing gun violence? We had many (vocal) gun rights advocates in the large audience for our program "The Increasing Threat From Gun Violence" on May 21 at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest.



Joy explains LWV rules

Moderator Joy Guscott-Mueller ably kept the discussion moving when there were interruptions. We emphasized the distinction between criminal use of guns and responsible use of guns by law-abiding citizens for sport or self-protection.

Panelist Dion McGill, Program Manager of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, told us of the daily violence resulting from easy access to handguns by school-age children. He said that frigid weather seems to be the only factor effective in reducing such incidents, since it keeps people the streets. In response to a question from audience, he



Dion McGill

plained his reasons for bringing school staff weapons for protection.

Laura Frisch of Moms Demand Action listed steps to be taken

vent ac-



Laura Frisch

cidental use of guns by children. She reminded us that the natural curiosity of children compromises any hiding place where parents might store guns. Therefore, it is important to ensure guns are unloaded and secured in a locked compartment with ammunition stored separately. Parents should check with hosts before play dates to find out if guns in the house which is to be visited a if so, are they secure?

Bob Spiel, retired Special Agent of the FBI, described the various types of weapons. He spoke of three categories: single shot, semi-automatic, and fully automatic. Of the semi-automatic weapons, which fire one bullet per trigger pull (without reloading)

common therefore often involved in violent acts. Possession of fully-automatic weapons, often called "machine guns," is illegal in Illinois.

Christopher Wilson, Managing Partner of law firm Perkins Coie, described how he successfully defended the City of Highland Park's ban on assault



Bob Spiel



Wilson

weapons in the Circuit Court of Appeals this spring. He also gave a brief explanation of how the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment has evolved through Supreme Court decisions.

Questions read from audience about the value of gun registration, "...since criminals won't do it." The panel responded that we are a democracy based on the rule of law. For example, we are now required to buy auto insurance if we wish to own a car. Since enactment of that law, the number of uninsured motorists has greatly decreased.

Following the Charleston, SC shooting, Liz wrote to US Sen. Kirk and US Rep. Dold asking what legislation they would support to reduce the criminal use of guns. Neither had replied at the time of this printing. We know that Sen. Durbin, State Sen. Morrison and State Rep. Drury support the League position calling for universal background checks with a waiting period, closing the gun show loophole, a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, increasing penalties for straw purchases of guns, and funding research on gun violence.

Wearing orange was the way many of us participated in National Gun Violence Day June 2nd. This was a campaign of various gun control groups, including Moms Demand Action, Everytown, and the Brady Campaign. What an easy way to show our support for sensible gun legislation!

The "Discussion on Gun Violence" video can be viewed from our website: <http://www.lwv-ill.org>. Click on "Visit the Video Library" (under the "Welcome") and make your selection. It's the best thing to being there!



Joy Guscott-Mueller

Waukegan Harbor Cleanup

LWV-LFLB was well represented at the Waukegan Harbor luncheon and cruise on July 7 at the Waukegan Harbor Yacht Club. Liz and Wyn attended with eight others: Judy Armstrong, Sharon Borg, Kathy Clay, Carol Gayle, Carol Russ, Jo-An Sabonjian, and Stan and Diane Sanderson.

We heard from Tim Drexler, Remedial Project Manager for the USEPA's Outboard Marine Corporation Superfund site. He provided historical background and described progress made in either removing or encapsulating contaminants.

Following the luncheon, a harbor cruise on the W.G. Jackson provided a better picture of the harbor cleanup by taking us directly to the



Lowering the Secchi disk

The W.G. Jackson is a sentence educa-



"Our Boat" in calm water

tion and research vessel operated by the Annis Water Resources Institute. Crew member/scientists alerted us to points of interest around the harbor while describing the boat's mission.

At one location in the harbor, we helped draw water samples from the lake and were directed to testing stations. It's been a long time since 11th grade chemistry, but we successfully measured the chemical composition of the water samples! We also measured turbidity of the water using a Secchi disk.

We learned the lake is quite clean, relatively young, and in danger of Asian carp infestation.

The W.G. Jackson serves researchers

and educational groups through a grant from the USEPA and works out of Grand Valley State University, Muskegon, MI. Rosemary Heilemann, LWV - Lake Michigan Region, made the arrangements for the day. Towns represented were Bannockburn, Buffalo Grove, Chicago, Evanston, Glenview, Hainesville, Highland Park, Grayslake, Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, Round Lake Beach, Waukegan, Winnetka, and Winthrop Harbor.

To find out more about the cleanup, see <http://www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/>



Gracefully Exiting the Vessel!

4th of July Parade

"Our Eyes Are On Your Issues" was the theme of our entry in the Lake Bluff parade. As 25,000 people watched, Carol Russ drove her decorated white convertible with passenger Ann Gray and Wyn Cain's grandson Dan (4) (6) Rattin.

Carol's car effectively conveyed our message. Cindy Morehead marched with a sign stating "Stop Gerry-mandering, Sign Independent Maps Petition."

Marching and carrying the LWV banner were Miranda Bradner-Young (7), her

parents John and Alexandra, Hattie Dart, and Liz and Wyn.

There was enthusiastic support for the League from the parade watchers. Let's encourage them to join, attend and participate in our programs!



They Know Their Government!

The League supports governmental education at all levels, believing that an informed citizenry encourages effective participation in a democracy.

Governmental studies are an important part of the Deer Path Middle School (Lake Forest) and Lake Bluff Middle School curriculum. Students demonstrate their understanding of the principles of democracy both through class participation and their scores on federal and state constitution tests.

In recognition of outstanding performance, five students were chosen to receive

our "Know Your Government Award." Lake Bluff Middle School students Mattison Boveri and Julia Kuetsmeyer were presented award certificates by Julia Fiske-Parker and principal Nathan Blackmer. Deer Park Middle School students Madeleine Marshall, Jaqueline Pink and Hanna Gilmore received award certificates from Joy Guscott-Mueller and Principal Renee DeVore. The recipients' names have been engraved on plaques displayed at each



Right: Lake Bluff M.S.

Lake Forest Days



There is room in Steve Sackley's vertible for more riders in the Lake Forest Days Parade, August 5.

We'll be there promoting the League and asking people to sign the Independent Redistricting Amendment pe-

tition (see MapAmendment.org)

Bev Nelson promised to be there in her red, white and blue. Happie Datt will help carry the banner. Call Liz or Wyn if you can help.

Sustainability

LWV-LFLB is partnering with the Lake Forest Collaborative for Environmental Leadership (LFCEL) in its sustainability program.

According to the USEPA, "Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other

requirements of present and future generations" - in other words, how to keep the planet livable.

A survey of residents' concerns and interests was taken. Once results are tabulated, the League will help educate area residents on how best to reach the goal of sustainability.



News Coverage: Who, What, When, Where, Why & How?



Editors from local and elec-

media spoke at the "Media Roundtable:

Meet the Editors". The Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Chamber of Commerce hosted

the luncheon and panel discussion at the Lake Forest Club on June 10. Mary Mathews, Liz and Wyn heard speakers explain the media's role in providing publicity.



They learned what should be included in a news release, the importance of

deadlines, and who to contact.

Media present included the *Daily North Shore* (dailynorthshore.com), the *Lake Forest Leader*, *North Shore Weekend*, the *Pioneer Local* and *Patch* (patch.com). We need to fully utilize these resources to increase public awareness of League positions and events.

Bluff Chamber of Commerce hosted

Anti-Gerrymandering Petition

There is general agreement that the current system of drawing General Assembly district maps is unfairly influencing election results, i.e., gerrymandering. The League advocates an independent redistricting commission to draw the maps which requires a constitutional amendment.

Petitions circulated by League members supporting an amendment are being signed and sent in. Jan Schnobrich turned in nine completely filled out petitions! The goal is to collect 600,000 signatures statewide. so please help if you are able.

Amendment

Most voters are happy to sign, once you explain that gerrymandering allows politicians to choose their voters rather than allowing voters to choose their political representatives. Contact Liz or Wyn for blank petitions.

Laurel-Western Redevelopment Update

The plan for development of the former Municipal Services property on Western between Laurel and Franklin has been improved to the satisfaction of many, but not all, of the neighbors. The Plan Commission sent it to the City Council, which made an additional modification and approved it by



a 6-1 vote.

The tentative plat (plan) now has no building taller than three stories, a vehicle entrance on Western rather than on Franklin, grassy medians in the roads, a density of 164 units rather than 172, preservation of Franklin Park, and a

second entrance to the underground parking garage.

The plat now goes to the Building Review Board for consideration of engineering plans, materials and design. Upon their agreement it will return first to the Planning Commission for final consideration and then to the City Council for final approval.

LWV-LC Update

Linda Bartmes hosted the League of Women Voters of Lake County annual meeting at the end of June. It was a lovely lunch with good food and even better company. We were joined by guests from three local leagues.

We have no definite dates but are planning to hold candidate debates in February. Also in February we will again be joining in the One Million Rising event for Lake County.

The Illinois Violent Death Reporting Project (under the auspices of Lurie Children's Hospital) is ongoing with

much work to do this year. Kathleen Conlon-Wasik is our point person. We have members who continue to work with Clean Power Lake County and CAG (Citizen's Advisory Group).

The Lake County Women's Coalition, of which we are a member, will be holding Women's Equality Day. The topic will be "Lake County Women Who Made History." This will be held at the Warren Newport Library on August 25th. All are welcome.



Unfortunately, inclement weather kept us out of Linda's beautiful garden (above).

Health Care Defense

We took a strong position on the Affordable Care Act to the recent Supreme Court decision.



Our Letter to the Editor stated that "the option to rely on the federal insurance exchange was added to the ACA as a means of providing maximum flexibility and ease to states as they implemented the law," since "The primary purpose of the ACA is to expand coverage for Americans, rather than limit coverage."

Happily the Court (in King v. Burwell) ruled that federal subsidies to premiums in states (including Illinois) which set up federal, as opposed to their own state, exchanges are legal.

Thus 6.4 million Americans who could have lost subsidies and coverage retain them.

Save This Date!

Sunday Sep. 13, afternoon, will be our fall membership kickoff. Joy Guscott-Mueller and Carol Gayle are planning a social hour and an interesting program on climate change.

Pope Francis and President Obama raised our awareness of this topic by forcefully stating their concerns. More information will follow on the location, time and speaker(s).

This will be a great opportunity to introduce prospective members not only to what we do but also to who we are. Bring a friend!

LWV-Lake Michigan Region

The Field Museum will provide the dinner speaker for the banquet of the Annual Meeting & Conference of the LWV-Lake Michigan Region. Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis, conservation ecologist at the Keller Science Action Center of the Field Museum, will speak on Friday,

September 25th at the Wyndham Glenview Suites North in Glenview.

Cash bar and networking are at 5:00, dinner and speaker at 7:00. The Annual Meeting will be held Saturday at the same location.

Our representative to this conference is David Mueller. He would welcome other League members to join him Friday for the dinner and also at the Saturday sessions. For more information, go to lwvlm.org/member-resources or contact David Mueller.

LWVIL News

Looking back

Looking forward

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD:
The Impact of Women on the "State of Our State"

The League of Women Voters of Illinois
2015 State of the State Luncheon

We will celebrate our 95th birthday and recognize our founder Carrie Chapman Catt at the 2015 State of the State Luncheon on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at the Union League Club of Chicago. Dr. Diane Bystrom will deliver the keynote address.



Dr. Bystrom

Catt Center for Women and Politics. Dr. Bystrom provides a rich perspective on the topic of women and politics.

The State of the State Luncheon is a significant source of funding for the LWVIL Education Fund. Ticket information and registration opportunities may be found on the state League website lwvil.org

Two recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings are worthy of note. One decision upheld a basic component of the Affordable Care Act which affected 34 states and consequently preserved the health insurance of millions of Americans.

The second decision affirmed the right of Arizonians and, by extension, citizens of all states to set up an independent redistricting commission. LWVIL had filed an amicus ("friend of the court") brief along with several other Illinois organizations. This is particularly relevant to the drive to amend the Illinois constitution to establish a non-partisan, independent commission of our own.

Information about the Independent Map Amendment is at mapamendment.org

As the director of Iowa State University's Carrie Chapman

**INDEPENDENT
MAP AMENDMENT**



League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

P.O. Box 645 • Lake Forest, IL 60045



Find us on
Facebook



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area

Still Going Strong Since 1926!



contact@LWVFLB.org
www.LWVFLB.org

Wynn and David Cain
1720 Marquette Ct
Lake Forest IL 60045

6004535115 C023

Calendar

July 25: bike race, Lake Forest College
August 5: Lake Forest Day
August 12: Board meeting
September 9: Board meeting
September 13: Kickoff social and program
September 19: Potbelly fund-raiser 5-8 P.M.
October 14: Board meeting
October 14: Constitutional amendment study (7 P.M.)
November 3: Program
November 11: Board meeting
December 3: Holiday party

League of Women Voters Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Liz Bradner	Co-President
Wyn Cain	Co-President
Marilyn Turchi	Membership
Joy Guscott-Mueller	Co-V.P. Program
Carol Gayle	Co-V.P. Program
Terry Desmond	V.P. Voter Service
Steve Potsic	Treasurer
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Linda Bartmes	Hospitality, LWV-Lake County Liaison
Jean Brown	Hot Topics Editor
David Mueller	LWV-LMR Liaison
Cindy Morehead	Director-at-Large
Ann Grant	Director-at-Large
Judy Grisamore	Director-at-Large

OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

Carol Russ	E-Alerts
Stephanie Victor	Voter Registration
Nicki Snoblin	Webmaster
Diane Sanderson	Newsletter Editor
Stan Sanderson	Newsletter Publisher
Mary Matthews	Facebook Editor

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League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Bonding in the Barn

Inside this issue:

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- Stop Gerrymandering
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Our fall kickoff social happened in the barn at Elawa Farm. It was great to reconnect with nearly a hundred Leaguers and friends after the summer break. In late afternoon on Sunday October 4 we were treated to wine and appetizers provided by the Guscott-Muellers and The Fresh Market.

Then the program "Environmental Stewardship in the Face of Climate Change" was delivered. (Considering that July was Earth's hottest month on record, who wouldn't be concerned?)



Seth began by describing these effects of planet warming: agricultural drought, sea level rise, ocean acidification, polar melting and extreme weather, which degrade our quality of life. He said our options are mitigation, geo-engineering, and adaptation. To mitigate the warming, we might absorb carbon dioxide by fertilizing the oceans, planting forests, or capturing carbon dioxide from

Geo-engineering might make it possible to reflect sunlight with space mirrors or whitening rooftops. We probably don't want to adapt to the warmer climate. He proposed that the best long-term strategy would be to replace fossil fuel use with solar power.

Earth currently uses 18 terawatts of energy yearly. By 2050, it is estimated that 30 terawatts will be needed. Solar power could realistically provide 67 terawatts, if 2% of the



Dr. Seth Darling

Seth Darling, PhD, a scientist at Argonne National Laboratories and a Fellow at the University of Chicago, gave the scientific facts about what is happening in our climate. Fr. John Pawlikowski, OSM, PhD, an author, editor and professor whose participation in national and international forums is too extensive to list, shared his perspective on the ethics of environmental stewardship. Our own David G. Mueller, Attorney at Law, spoke about how the law can be used as related to environmental changes.



Fr. John Pawlikowski

earth's land collected solar light.



Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.

George Eliot

Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear League members,

Our League has been off to a busy start this fall! Both the "Kick-Off" meeting October 4 at Elawa Farms on Climate Change and Constitutional Amendment study October 14th at Grace United Methodist Church were well attended and generated new members; they are always welcome.

Now we look forward to two
Another interesting

important program November 9 on Money in Politics will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest. Our Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for December 3rd at Froggy's restaurant in Highwood.

As we begin in January 2016, please look for opportunities to participate in planning our programs with our program chairmen and voter service chairman. The January program will focus on mental health and a Candidate

Forum will be offered in February.

Working and learning together helps our League to grow even stronger.

Liz and
Co-pres



Bonding, from Page 1

Seith is promoting carbon taxes, cap and trade, efficiency, and research and development into more efficient energy use.

Fr. Pawlikowski discussed the evolution of understanding leading to Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment. Early thought emphasized economic over environmental values, based on the idea that unfettered utilization of the Earth and its resources was a divinely-bestowed right.

He traced his own "moment of understanding" to a 1972 conference, at which a speaker forcefully argued that, "We are the first generation to ask, 'Will there be future generations?'" Previous generations had the ability to repair damage to nature, but that is no longer so. "We must solve these issues or we will all be dead."

Fr. Pawlikowski said that he tells his Ethics students that there are many so-

cial problems to work on, but the only one which will matter in the long run is the question of environmental stewardship. This single issue must be solved or... "we'll all be dead." He characterized the encyclical as emphasizing spiritual life as a motivating force for environmental stewardship.

David Mueller gave the legal perspective. He said greenhouse gas regulation has stalled because of a dysfunctional relationship between Congress and the Executive Branch. Therefore we have no international treaties or comprehensive fed-



amendments to the 1990 Clean

Air Act. Action has been possible by regulation, using the existing Clean Air Act, supported by the Judiciary and state and local initiatives.

Pollution control technology doesn't take care of carbon dioxide. Efficiency, fuel switching, and offsets such as planting trees are better weapons. The Kyoto Protocol was signed to reduce carbon emissions but the developed world largely failed to ratify it. A cap and trade system implemented by the European



Joy Guscott-Mueller, Moderator

Union also failed due to over-allocation of quotas.

Under President Obama the Environmental Protection Administration is now regulating power plants which use 32% of our energy, and cars and trucks which use 28%. Under the Clean Power Plan, the EPA aims to reduce energy use by 30% between 2005 and 2030. The states are expected to implement the goal. In fact, governors, mayors, executives and community leaders are working on public transportation, renewable fuels, and green building standards.

The program was well-received. You can view it on YouTube at [youtube.com/watch?v=OcegrNyn9H4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcegrNyn9H4)



David Mueller, Attorney

Constitutional Amendment



L to R: Sally Zeit, Carol Russ, Cindy Morehead



L to R: Adam Bartholomew, Barry Bradford, Margaret Hart, David Mueller, Joy Guscott-Mueller, and an Brown

The LWVUS study about amending the U.S. Constitution was the focus of our meeting on Wednesday October 14 at Grace United Methodist Church in Lake Bluff. We began by enjoying a potluck dinner. Boy, can we cook!

Following the meal, Carol Gayle, Associate Professor of History at Lake Forest College, outlined the history of amending the Constitution by Congressional action. She explained the alternative method (which has never been used) that begins with proposals from 2/3 of the state legislatures, proceeds with a convention, and finishes with ratification by 3/4 of the state legislatures. Interest in this method has increased as a result of the Citizens United decision.

After Carol's excellent presentation, the 20 or so attendees answered the consensus questions. Their responses will



Carol Gayle
Speaker and

be forwarded to the LWVUS.

Among the questions the LWVUS asked us to discuss was whether the policy objective under consideration can be achieved by a legislative or political approach. Either would be less difficult and more easily modified if future voters so desire.

Then we discussed if a constitutional convention should be transparent or conducted in secret (which might make delegates more flexible). Should representation and voting at the convention be based on population or an equal number from each state? Should delegates be elected or appointed? Should their discussion be open-ended or limited to a specific topic? Should the League consider supporting an amendment that wasn't chosen by the convention with all of these safeguards?

Our discussion was very thoughtful, and while sometimes we did not reach consensus, all views were heard.

David Mueller

Holidays With the First Ladies

Unpack your holiday spirit! The League is inviting you to our annual luncheon and fund-raiser on Thursday Dec. 3 at 10:30 A.M.

This year it will be at Froggy's

Cafe, 306 Green



Bay Road in Highland. Barry Bradford, who both entertained and informed us last year, is going to tell us about ten Fabulous First Ladies.



Barry Bradford

RSVP with \$50 to LWVLF/LB, PO Box 645, Lake Forest. Write the checks payable to the Ed

Fund; \$13 of the \$50 is a tax-deductible contribution. Or you can pay online with Paypal, but be sure not to miss it.

Barry says we will look at some of the accomplished, fascinating women who served as First Ladies, the unexpected challenges they faced and how they reflected the changing role of women throughout our history.

Bring a friend!

Carrie Chapman Catt Award

The 2015 recipient of the Carrie Chapman Catt Award is Jane Partridge. The award recognizes a League member who has shown outstanding leadership and considerable action in promoting the League's mission.

Carrie Chapman Catt was a prominent leader in the fight for women's suffrage. With her great leadership and organizational skills, she was able to pressure Congress to pass the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

As much as we owe Ms. Catt, we also owe much to Jane Partridge for making our local League as strong as

As Mary Mathews wrote,

"In 2010 Jane was elected co-president. With a membership of 72, she worked hard to grow the membership to reach 91 in June 2014. She ramped up activities with something for every month so members would have a chance to be in-



Jane Partridge

involved: either a membership meeting, program public meeting, a candidate, or an interest group meeting. Communication was stressed, and the website was redesigned by Nicki Snoblin and a monthly e-alert initiated. Visibility was improved by working with other organizations, increased publicity, and letters to the editor. She believed strongly in the League's role of advocacy and encouraged people to speak out on important issues. She twice addressed the Lake Forest City Council on the League's position on guns."

A member since 1999, Jane has worked for affordable housing, public programs on health care, the Census 2010 Complete Count, redistricting, the constitutional amendment, and legislative

interviews. She has attended multiple national conventions, state conventions, and state Issues Briefings.

Jane has a passion for good government that we all should emulate. We will present her award on December 3 at the Holiday Luncheon at Froggy's French Café.



*Jane as a Suffragette
(from the cover of her book)*



Carrie Chapman Catt



New Members



A warm welcome to our four new members: Susan Zingle, Audrey Boggess, and Vanderbuilt

Cynthia McKenzie. We are glad to have their ideas and woman power to carry forward our work.

Ask your friends! Nobody should take democracy for granted.

Way To Go!

Stop Gerrymandering

Many people think the only solution to partisan gridlock in the US is to make congressional districts more competitive to draw the districts by rea-

A ballot initiative for the November 2016 general election that would allow that is promoted by Support Independent Maps. The League of Women Voters of Illinois is in full support and distributed petitions for members to solicit signatures. Six hundred thousand signatures statewide are needed to be sure that 300,000 are valid.

Our local League collected 350 signatures by attending the Farmers Markets, Lake Forest Day, and other events and by sidewalk solicitations. More are needed; so ask Liz or Wyn for a petition. Signatures must be collected and submitted by Dec. 31. Let's take back the

redistricting process so legislators don't choose their voters. Legislators should choose their legislators!

sonable standard to protect incumbents. This would have to be done by a commission independent of the political parties.



Fall Membership Drive

Your League is calling. Unlike most callers, we tell you who is calling and what we are calling about. Dues!

We have a bit of catching up to do, as

only 62 out of 92 members have renewed. (Thanks to all who did!)

Please answer the call and remit your



League on the March — Lake Forest Day Parade

The viewers of the Lake Forest Day Parade couldn't miss us with our borrowed red convertible, the eyelashes on the headlights, "Our Eyes Are On Your Issue" signs and our big League banner. (Thank you, Steve Sackley, for the use of your convertible!)

We enjoyed a beautiful warm, sunny day during the August 5th



Wyn Cain and Happie Datt



Wyn and Happie on the march

parade. We won second place in the Neighborhood/Individual category.

Thank you, Carol Russ, for the theme and execution of it! We received lots of call-outs and claps on Western Avenue; so, we know the community loves us. Let's get more of them to join us and make democracy work better for us all!

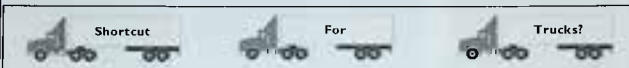
Transparency On Route 53 Extension

With little opportunity for citizen input, the Lake Forest City Council agreed to support Lake County in extending Route 53 at a July 20 meeting. Concerned citizens who had asked to testify were notified only the day before

the meeting that a Lake County letter requesting support would be voted upon on July 20.

Subsequently our League wrote to the Council that our land use and

transportation position states "the public must be fully informed from the beginning and throughout the planning process." We believe an open discussion of the pros and cons might have produced a different decision.

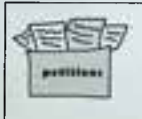


LWV-LC Update

The League of Women Voters of Lake County has had a busy few months!

In June Carla Wyckoff, Lake County Clerk, spoke to us at the Waukegan Yacht Club about the challenges her office is facing this election year.

LWV-LC has been collecting signatures



for the redistricting petitions. Members of our board have been observing the Lake County committee of the whole and board meetings. It has made us familiar with the members and what's going on in the county.

Mary Mathews and Mary Fran Troha continue to be involved with Clean Power Lake County. They both testified to the IEPA with approval of LWVIL

and LWVUS. Thank you, Mary and



Mary Fran, for all your work!

Also, we have been monitoring and commenting on the proposed Rt. 53 extension. In addition, we are working on a program about Lake County assessors.

We held a mock election in September at Round Lake High School.



For National Voter Registration Day we registered 19 voters at Round Lake High School, 36 at Grayslake North High School, and 11 at the College of Lake

County. We will also be registering at Carmel High School in November.

We held a moderator training session



organized by Diane Sanderson on October 17th. Fifteen people attended the session (including Carol Gayle).

Our Constitutional Amendment Study and Consensus will be on November 18th in Mundelein. Candidate debates will be organized when we know who's running.

Last but not least, our holiday luncheon will be held at The Chocolate Sanctuary on Dec. 16th. In case that entices anyone, remember, all are invited!

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Bartmes

Is It Time? (A Public Service Announcement!)

No one enjoys being pulled over by a person in an official car with flashing lights and (perhaps) a siren, right?

In the interest of preventing such an occurrence, this is a reminder that the

Secretary of State's office is **NOT** (sorry for shouting, but let me repeat, not) sending reminders to renew your automobile license(s). It is totally up to you to check your current registration for the expiration date and purchase the

renewal sticker at a local facility or online.

See www.cyberdriveillinois.com (the official Secretary of State website) for locations and explanations.

Venus de Miles

On the July 26, several League members contributed their time and talents at "Venus de Miles," a charity women's-only bike ride. This ... only at



Carol Gayle

Lake Forest College and Boulder County, Colorado. It supports the Greenhouse Scholars, an organization which provides support to talented college students with insufficient financial resources. Support goes beyond financial assistance through their "Whole Person" approach of mentorship, professional support, summer symposium, professional network, internship, tuition scholarships and flex funding.

Participating in the support team were Carol Gayle, Sharon Borg, Liz Bradner, Sue Johnson and Ann Grant. We took advantage of the opportunity to obtain more signatures on the constitutional

amendment petition while promoting the League with our sign. Afterward we enjoyed a lunch of Mexican cuisine.



Sharon Borg

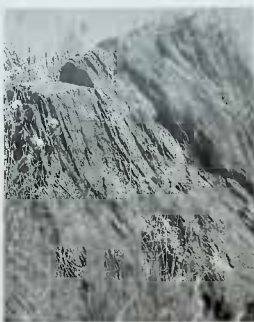
Sharing Environmental Concerns: An Informal Symposium

On a lovely day at the end of August, about two dozen people gathered beside a beautiful ravine in Lake Bluff for an informal discussion of local resources focused on environmental concerns. This "Conversation for Possibilities: Fresh Air, Fresh Water, Fresh Ideas," brought together teachers, activists from a variety of organizations, and citizens of Lake Bluff and Lake Forest with particular problems or concerns.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region, our own League of Women Voters Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, and the Alliance for the Great Lakes, the meeting was hosted by George and Pam Russell. It was facilitated by Judy Beck, of the LWV-Lake Michigan Region, who for years served as the EPA's community relations officer in this area.

Members of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff League who attended included Carol Russ, one of the organizers of the program; Linda and Russell Barnes, who are concerned about the health of the ravine on which they live; David Mueller, attorney with long and varied experience with environmental matters and law; Judy Bog-

gess, who has long worked with the Lake Forest Garden Club on environmental matters; and Carol Gayle.



Represented at the meeting were the Great Lakes Alliance, the Lake Bluff Park District, Lake Bluff Open Lands and Native Restoration Services, and K. C. Doyle who is Sustainability Coordin-

ator of Lake County. Various people reported on what their organizations were doing.

A teacher from Lake Forest High School argued strongly for the importance of reaching young people with the message that action is needed to protect the environment. Henrietta Saunders of the LWV-Lake Michigan Region spoke of the need to reach the general public. Even so, several people lamented what they see as indifference to environmental problems in our community. A number of environment-related events in September and October were announced.

We left the meeting generally encouraged to find out how much was being done in our communities by a wide range of groups, but, at the same time, we realized that we often did not know enough about what other groups were doing.

The overall thrust of the meeting was sharing information and seeking ways to collaborate. And we were more convinced than ever that there is much to be done and time is short.

-Carol Gayle

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

P.O. Box 645 • Lake Forest, IL 60045

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of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area*Still Going Strong Since 1926!*contact@LWV-L.F.B.org
www.LWV-L.F.B.orgWyn Cain
1720 Marquette Ct
Lake Forest IL 60045David Cain
1720 Marquette Ct
Lake Forest IL 60045

6004535115 0023

Calendar

- Nov. 9: Money in Politics (7 P.M.)
 Nov. 11: Board meeting
 Dec. 3: Holiday party
 Dec. 31: Independent Maps petitions due
 Jan. 13: Board meeting
 Jan. 28: Teen mental health program
 Feb. 1: Compiled Consensus reports due to National
 Feb. 10: Board meeting
 Feb. 28: Candidate forum for primary
 Mar. 15: Primary election

League of Women Voters
Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area
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Stan Sanderson	Newsletter Publisher
Mary Mathews	Facebook Editor

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."



LEAGUE LINES

WINTER 2015

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Lunching and Learning

Inside this issue:

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Proving that we are about fun as well as work, we celebrated the holidays at The Grille on Laurel on Dec. 4. Forty members and guests heard nationally-known historian Barry Bradford speak on "Women for President: Past, Present and Future."

Linda Bartmes created beautiful floral centerpieces and Lisa Dietrich sold timely books. Altogether we netted \$966.31 on the luncheon, which will help keep us going for another year! Thanks to all support.



("Wouldn't it be lovely?") Following his talk, Mr. Bradford took questions and shared his perspective on potential women presidential candidates.



Many stimulating conversations accompanied the excellent meal. Finally, Carol Russ received the Carrie Chapman Catt Award for her outstanding efforts on behalf of our League (see below).

Carrie Chapman Catt Award

Carol Russ received the 2014 Carrie Chapman Catt Local Leadership Award. One of our best, Carol has been local president, publisher of e-alerts, chairman of nominating, organizer of the stormwater program - in general answering whenever action was needed to



promote the League's mission. The award is named in honor of a leader in the fight for women's suffrage and the founder of the League of Women Voters. In accepting the award, Carol paid tribute to member Marilyn Shineflug who recently passed away.



Halku
Looking at today
tomorrow surely coming,
nascent dreams revealed!

Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear Leaguers,

We hoped to start 2015 with a bang and follow with a program each month but the calling of a special session of the legislature on Jan. 8 caused a postponement of the fiscal crisis program to February 11. Therefore having a clean water program also in February will make us double up. In March lack of

competition in the Consolidated Election means no candidate forum. We will do program planning in March for the fall and next winter in time for input to the state convention. Remaining issues are gun sense, climate change and mental health to cover in April and May before our annual meeting in June.

Many things happen outside of our

membership meetings such as Time for Action alerts on legislation, local government meetings and legislative interviews. Please stay informed by our postcards, e-alerts, Facebook and our website lww-lfb.org and help us when ways are available. There are so many ways to make a positive difference in our government

-Liz & Wyn

Laurel/Western Redevelopment (Lake Forest)

The City of Lake Forest has taken the next step in the redevelopment of a former industrial and municipal services area at the north end of the business district. Community input from meetings held in 2007 suggested the property would be ideal for residential use due to its proximity to the amenities offered in and around the historic

Market Square. Focus Development, Inc. of Northfield, Illinois was chosen in September, 2014, as the property developer. Approval of the contract by the City Council on December 1, 2014 enabled the public review process.

At a meeting of the Plan Commission on December 10, Leaguers heard a preliminary overview of the proposed development and met the project team.

From Concept to Development



LAUREL & WESTERN AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT

Preliminary concept plan from Focus Development, Inc.

The vision includes a mix of residential units, including single family homes, 2- and 3-story condominiums, and 4-story rental apartments. Strong support was shown for the intention to set aside approximately 65% of the property as open space. Underground parking will be provided for condominium and apartment residents, and the maintenance-free single family homes will have

two-car garages.

Discussion at the meeting mostly centered on placing the access points to the complex on Franklin Place and Laurel Avenue rather than on Western Avenue. Focus Development, Inc., will revise the plan and resubmit it in January or February of 2015.

Financing of the project is to be through creation of a Tax Increment Financing District, which would allow the sale of

bonds by the City. Property tax revenue generated as units are occupied would be used to pay off the bonds. This would also cover the cost of demolition and other preparation of the site. Public hearings will be held in early 2015. For information about the development, go to the City website at <http://www.cityoflakeforest.com>.

If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

Keeping Teens Safe from Themselves

Exploring the possibility of a program on teenage mental health, Jean Brown, Carol Gayle and Liz Bradner recently attended two area seminars which explored symptoms, causes and community resources.

One topic which received special emphasis was the connection between depression and substance abuse. Depression is often difficult to diagnose, especially in teens, and is often confused with moodiness. Experts say teen depression is more common than

sion screeners during school physicals. However, only about one in five teens are diagnosed and treated. Local resources, such as LEAD (Leading Efforts Against Drug Abuse) and CROYA (Committee Representing Our Young Adults), provide assistance and training to local schools.

One innovative tool is LEAD's Text-A-Tip program, which provides anonymous help for both teens and adults in the Lake Forest, Lake Bluff and Knollwood on a 24/7 schedule. Those wishing to share concerns about others will get help while remaining anonymous.

Not sure where to turn for help?

**Text-A-Tip
24/7 365**



or text
74637



The Affordable Care Act made the same benefits available for mental illness as physical illness. It is unfortunate that people of all ages are often reluctant to talk about mental health problems and therefore do not get treatment for themselves, their families or friends. Hopefully, programs such as the anonymous Text-A-Tip and CROYA will ease the path to diagnosis and treatment.



people
think.
Pediatricians offer quick
diagnosis

Illinois Fiscal Crisis Discussion Rescheduled

Illinois' budget deficit and large carryover debt will be discussed by our State Senator Julie Morrison and State Representative Scott Drury on Wednesday February 11 at 7 P.M. at the First Presbyterian Church, 700 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest. The Highland Park/Highwood and Deerfield Leagues will co-



Sen. Julie Morrison

sponsor the discussion as they are also in our legislative district.

Solutions which have been proposed include public pension reform, expanding the state sales tax to services, taxing retirement income, restoring the 5% personal income tax and the 7% corporate income tax, and a 3% "millionaire's income tax."

Each of the proposed solutions has



Rep. Scott Drury

strong opposition. Further complicating the problem is the incoming governor's stated intent to increase spending on education and infrastructure without raising taxes. The discussion should afford us the opportunity to hear our legislators' thoughts on the issues. We hope to see you there!

Local Elections Coming Soon

It's election time again!

Petitions have been filed for township, library, park district, school board and fire department officials. None of the races are contested; so, the League won't

be holding candidate forums.

Terry Desmond and Ann Grant attended a community meeting to introduce the committee-recommended candidates in Lake Bluff.

Vote in the primary on February 24 and in the consolidated general election on April 7. It is our right and duty.



LWVIL Actions

Legislation containing several voting reforms was passed by the Illinois General Assembly on December 3, 2014.



These reforms, which were supported by the state League, include same day registration at early voting sites and polling

places on election day; extension of early voting to the Monday before an election; and joining the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

ERIC is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the accuracy of

voter registration lists and increasing access to voter registration for all eligible citizens. States who choose to join provide governance and management. In effect, it is an effort to bring voter registration into the 21st century by eliminating handwritten entries on paper forms with their inherent errors.

Illinois residents can now register online using their driver's license or state ID card, by giving the date the license or card was issued, their birth date and the last four digits of their social security number. The State Board of Elections website is at ova.elections.il.gov. Information entered is verified with the

Illinois Secretary of State's office.

Much more information about LWVIL positions and upcoming events (including the June, 2015 Biennium Convention in Naperville) is available at lwvil.org.



2015 Biennium Convention Planning

LWVUS Actions

The national League has been busy protecting voting rights, engaging voters, reforming money in politics, and defending the environment. Over 90,000 letters were sent to Congress supporting

the Voting Rights Act after rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court weakened



Over 100,000 comments went to the Environmental Protection Agency supporting reducing carbon pollution from existing power plants. The EPA will fi-



nalize regulations by June 2015.

The LWV joined a letter to Senate leadership encouraging them to oppose amendments to the 2014 appropriation bills that threaten the nation's clean water, climate and natural resources.

The vote411.org website was a huge success. There were 26,800 visits to the Illinois pages of statewide candidates, and 71% of the candidates returned the surveys with their opinions on issues.

Most recently, the League responded to misinformed comments by Representative Steve Scalise which characterized the League as a partisan organization. President Elisabeth MacNamara reaffirmed the League's commitment to working for all voters regardless of their party affiliation.

Advocacy

A Time for Action alert went to all our members, asking them to contact Rep. Scott Drury and urge him to vote for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Unfortunately it didn't come up for a vote because Speaker of the House

Madigan predicted it would fall short.

We also wrote a Letter to the Editor before the fall election urging voters to inform themselves by reading the League Voters' Guides at vote411.org and at lwvil.org.



Water— Just What Are We Drinking?

How often have you thought about the water you're drinking? Two atoms of hydrogen bonded to an atom of oxygen,

right? But think about all the places that water has been, not to mention where it's going! "Clean" water is what we hope for. Pure, uncontaminated, cool,

clear water.

Back in 1947 The Sons of the Pioneers made us all thirsty with a song (*Cool Water*) about "...facing the barren waste

without the taste of water..." Today the challenge is not just finding water, but finding water fit to drink.

On Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 1:30 P.M. Beth Kosson, Director of Education for Eco-Myths Alliance, will present a program about climate change and clean water. Our League will co-sponsor the event with the Office of Community Education of Lake Forest College. It will be held in the



Beth Kosson
& Friend

Meyer Auditorium in Hotchkiss Hall, 555 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest.

EcoMyths Alliance is a nonprofit environmental organization which "...empowers people to make eco-friendly choices by presenting simple science in entertaining ways." It boasts an impressive list of founding partners and expert advisors.

Save the date now!



Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome is extended to our newest members: Ann Rattin, Sharon Borg, Carole Shook, Betsy Warren, Eleanor McMurrin, Heather Goldhaber, Betsy Hough, Joyce Newcomb, Judy Armstrong, and Jill Shepherd. Our

League offers many opportunities to share your talents and contribute to the important work we do. Don't hesitate to ask questions and offer opinions. Every member is a valuable asset!

With the addition of these ten new members, our roll has increased to 92. Thanks to the Membership Committee for your hard work and great results. You are all our best advertisers.



Who Votes?



The Pew Research Center recently released a report showing that "People who feel financially secure vote, people

who aren't secure don't..." That matters, especially in mid-term elections, to those political parties with which financially secure and insecure Americans identify themselves.

Political activism also relates to financial security. The research found the most secure Americans to be twice as informed and three times as likely to have

contacted an elected official.

A number of other areas are covered in the report, including some social issues which appear to be immune to financial status influences. Several other issues fit into a more expected pattern.

All in all, it is a worthwhile read. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/lp4r5pr>

LWV-LC Update

The League of Women Voters of Lake County completed a busy year with a holiday party at the beautifully decorated home of Linda Bartmes. LWV-LC has an active schedule the next couple of months.

We are participating in the LWVIL study update on Charter Schools. On Wednesday, January 28, 11:00 A.M., Jeanne Kearby will host a meeting with lunch at her house. After watching the

video available on LWVIL website, we will discuss the pros and cons, and then reach consensus on the provided questions. Call Jeanne at 847-201-2041 for more information.

LWV-LC will continue its efforts to pass the Equal Rights Amendment in Illinois and is coordinating its lobbying with LWVIL, AAUW, PDA, and other organizations.

In February, LWV-LC will be a co-sponsor for the third annual One Billion Rising Lake County event on

Thurs., Feb. 12, 6:00 P.M. at the Round Lake Beach Cultural and Civic Center. This is part of a global campaign to raise awareness about violence against women. It is a very lively and uplifting event.

ONE BILLION RISING Our League members continue to work for clean air and clean water through coalition partnerships with Clean Power Lake County and the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group. We also continue to attend meetings and provide comment on the extension of Route 53, which may cause air and water pollution.

Recently LWV-LC sent the Lake County Board commissioners a letter requesting that they follow normal procedures in voting on an inter-governmental agreement. Originally the Board considered bypassing committee approval, thereby shortchanging the public both in transparency and citizen input. Thankfully, they changed their minds and sent the issue to committee for full discussion.

Currently, the League is discussing with the Lake

County Center for Independent Living and Mundelein High School about a Candidate Debate this spring for the Village of Mundelein.

On Saturday, March 7, as part of the Lake County Women's Coalition, members and guests will enjoy a program and brunch celebrating Women's History Month at the Brae Lock County Club in Grayslake. The League is a long-time member of the coalition, which celebrates women's accomplishments and provides scholarships.

We continue to work on gun violence and criminal justice issues.

All members of local Leagues are invited to participate in LWV-Lake County's activities. If you would like more information, please call Linda Bartmes 847-234-7069 or Kathleen Conlon-Wasik 847-231-5656.

We Deserve Equal Rights!



LWV Lake Michigan Region



It makes you want to get out there in

your kayak, right? Well, it's winter, but ice and snow haven't slowed down the Lake Michigan Region League.

A letter writing campaign has been underway to encourage the LWVUS Advocacy Committee to adopt Sustainable Water Resources as a legislative priority.

LWVLMR President Henrietta Saunders presented a number of arguments to support the position that water be added to the LWVUS list of "core issues."

Her letter reviews the League's historical involvement in water issues since the 1920s

—continued on next page



LWV Lake Michigan (Continued from p. 6)

and relates it to water and the consequences of climate change. She points out that, while many water-related issues are local due to local control, larger bodies of water (such as Lake Michigan) are under federal control. Legislative priorities at the LWVUS level would be more effective in addition to providing support at the local level.

Water has a profound financial impact at many levels. Water processing, both before and after use, is a significant budget item for most communities. Contamination from pesticides, industrial waste and agricultural runoff presents challenges to current water treatment technology. How these contaminants might affect us in the future is unknown.

While the time for submitting letters has passed, the issue is fresh. Be sure to attend the LWVLF/LB program presentation by EcoMyths on February 22 (see the article above, page 5).

Water deserves respect!

Pictures!



Rosie Miller (1895-1964)
Surprise Party
42,000 votes in 1940
for US President!



League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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Still Going Strong Since 1926!



contact@LWVFLB.org

www.LWVFLB.org

Calendar

Jan. 14: Board meeting
Feb. 11: Illinois' fiscal crisis program
Feb. 11: Board meeting
Feb. 14: LWV 95th Birthday
Feb. 22: Clean water program
Feb. 24: Primary election
March 7: LWVIL Issues Briefing
March TBA: Program Planning
March: Women's History Month
March 11: Board meeting
Please Check the web site for times and locations!

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Stan Sanderson	Newsletter Publisher

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League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Holiday Luncheon Carrie Chapman Catt Award

Inside this issue:

- Holiday Luncheon
Carrie C. Catt Award
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- New Members 3
- Money in Politics (MIP)
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Full Text of LWV Position
- Teen & Y.A. Mental Health 6
Indy Map Petition Status
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- Calendar 8

Our annual Holiday Luncheon on December 3 featured interesting information about ten "Fabulous First Ladies." Historian Barry Bradford, who spoke at last year's luncheon about women who have run for President,



Barry Bradford

told us about the remarkable achievements of Frances Cleveland, Edith Wilson, Sarah Polk,

Coolidge, Lucy Hayes and Harriet Lane, as well as the better-known Eleanor Roosevelt, Lady Bird Johnson, Dolley Madison and Betty Ford.



We presented the Carrie Chapman Catt award to Jane Partridge. This was in recognition of her four years as co-president of the League, leading the 2006/2007 Immigration study, directing programs on health care, the 2010 Census Count, redistricting, and a Constitutional Convention, and presenting a book review on Frances Perkins.

Turn to *Luncheon*, Page 3

Important Meeting February 26!

Once a year our League members have the opportunity to decide issues we want to focus on in 2016-2017. What do we want to learn about and to advocate?

Let's discuss this on Friday, February 26th at 1:00 p.m. at Terry Desmond's home, while we enjoy sweet and healthy treats.

Come to 1681 Yale Court, Lake Forest. RSVP at www.lwv-lfllb.org or call Liz at 847-234-1612.

Snowflakes

I counted till they danced
Their slippers leaped the

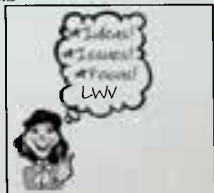
And then, I took a pencil
To note the rebels down.
And then they grew so jolly
I did resign the prize.
And ten of my once stately
toes

Are marshalled for a jig!

—Emily Dickinson

LWV proposes that we focus action on Making Democracy Work; to include redistricting reform, voting rights, and money in politics reform, and not take on new studies. We must respond to LWV by March 1, 2016.

For our local program, we will decide whether to retain, change, or delete any of our local positions, which are printed in the Membership Directory. Members can also propose new local studies.



Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear League members,

As this newsletter shows, we're off to a busy new year. We would like to increase attendance at our events, both by members and the public, so please give League priority in your calendar

planning. Your local board puts a great deal of thought in organizing these educational programs.

We know we are effective in advocacy from the positive reception we receive from legislators, other reform

organizations, and parade-watchers.

See you at the important Program Planning Meeting Feb. 26th.

Liz and Wyn
Co-presidents

LWVIL Issues Briefing - You are invited!

What are the main issues for League members in Illinois this winter? Come to hear this timely forum. The LWVIL will brief members on Saturday, February 27 at University Center, 525 South State Street.

Gun Violence Prevention led by US Rep. Robin Kelly of the 2nd District Illinois will be the first plenary session. Three workshops are offered following that ses-



R Kelly

Fulfilling the Promise of Public Education will be led by Dr. Roger Eddy, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Boards.



R Eddy

Cynthia Canary from the Independent Maps Amendment Campaign will



C Canary

The third option is the Illinois Clean Jobs Bill, with Elaine Nekritz (sponsor of the bill) and Jen Walling of the Illinois Environmental Council.



J Walling

Mark Walsh, Campaign Director of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, will be available for those interested during the box lunch break.



Plenary session II is The Outlook for Criminal Justice Reform in Illinois

featuring Rodger Heaton,



R Heaton

Chair of the state commission on the topic, and John Maki, director of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority



J Maki

Afternoon workshops include Stand Up for Healthy Water, Effects of Mental Health Problems on Prisoners in Illinois, and Consolidate, Eliminate, or Continue to Fund - what to do about over-6900-units-of government in Illinois. (More details at lwvil.org)

A new feature is dinner and dialogue at nearby restaurants for those who want to continue discussions or to meet other League members.

Please contact Liz Bradner as soon as possible if you would like to attend this February 27th event!

Candidate Debates Planned

One of our finest services to the voting public is to hold a candidate debate before each election. Voters hear opening statements from each candidate; then they may ask questions. Candidates can respond to their opponents.

On Sunday, February 28, four Leagues (Lake Forest-Lake Bluff, Deerfield, Highland Park/Highwood and Glencoe-Glenview) will jointly present the can-

didates for the contested Democrat races.

There are two candidates for 10th Congressional District: former US Representative Brad Schneider and Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering; and two for Lake County State's Attorney: attorneys Matt Stanton and Michael Perillo Jr. No Republican nominations are contested at the local level.

Come to the Highland Park Country Club, 1201 Park Avenue, Highland Park at 1:30 on Feb. 28 to hear this important debate.

We will present a debate in October, tentatively on October 16, for the general election. At that time, the Republican, Democrat and Independent candidates will be invited to participate.

Continued from Page 1



Carrie Chapman Cell Award winner, Sara Partridge (center)



how to the
surface of
lighting
them and
Clemmy
which the
surface the
lenses of
my hand
lenses. She
has worked
hardly to
increase our
membership
and our vis-

ibility. She cannot possibly retire.

Joan is a former English teacher and a member of her former students' union in retirement.

Laurinda was at a new venue, Frigg's French Cafe in Highland, and it was delicious. Interesting books were once again made available for purchase by the Lake Forest Book Store. A total of \$170 was added to our Education Fund, and we had great food and a great time in brief!



New Members

Welcome to new members from Visalia, the Let's Book Tools and Other Friends. Their fresh energy will help us promote our events and staff programs with enthusiasm. Let's build strength with greater numbers!



The new book
a friend who
would help
make
discovery
work!



Money in Politics

A major focus this year was the LWV study of money in politics. The League's current position on campaign finance does not address donors' rights of speech. It deals with the public's right to know about candidates and sets goals of combating corruption and undue influence, together with providing equitable funding opportunities for candidates.



Before the event

The new position will address donors' rights. The Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision dealt with the issue of First Amendment (free-speech) rights of donors, candidates and independent spenders.

The purpose of the 2015 LWV study was to update and clarify our position.



Scott Drury

benefit from it."

We held a public forum on November 9, 2015, at the First Presbyterian Church, Lake Forest, entitled *Democracy and Governance in a Post-Citizens United U.S.* Speakers were State Representative Scott Drury of the 58th District; David



Mary Schaafsma

Thomas Edsall wrote in the *New York Times* "Nearly everyone in America agrees that there is too much influence-seeking money in politics, except for the people

Campaign Manager for MAYDAY.US.

Representative Drury discussed how fund-raising affects campaigning and Mary Schaafsma stressed the League's interest in transparency of donors.



David Melton

David Melton's organization is a small matching system moving toward public financing. They

regret that a candidate's fund-raising prowess is often seen as a predictor of electoral success, rather than his/her fitness for office. Benjamin Singer also spoke for small donor matching to fight corruption and to elect reformers.



Consensus Meeting: Money in Politics

We then met on January 15 at Lake Forest College to determine consensus on the LWV money in politics questions. Only members participated and their opinions have been submitted to LWV.



David Mueller, Wyn Cain, Marilyn Turchi
Consensus Participants

consensus, it is helpful to look at the LWV Handbook for Successful Consensus Meetings.

The dictionary defines consensus as "collective opinion or concord, general agreement or accord." The term is often used (1) interchangeably with the term "member agreement" to refer to the overall decision-making (2) to refer to a specific technique used to discuss and arrive at conclusions on issues.

Used as a technique for reaching agreement, consensus is a process whereby members participate in a



Carol Gayle
Presenting

group discussion of an issue. The "consensus" reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity, but refers to the overall "sense of the group".

Member agreement emerges from the give and take that comes from group interaction and the exchange of viewpoints.

Listening to and participating in discussion helps to shape the recommendations.

The goal of consensus is to incor-

Turn to *Consensus*, Page 5

To better understand the process of con-

New LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Position

Following the consensus meetings last fall (in which we participated), the national LWV board adopted a new position on the constitutional convention process of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The entire text of the press release is printed below.

To summarize:

1. The Convention must not be conducted in secret;

2. Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote; and delegates should be elected rather than appointed;

3. Voting must be by delegate, not by

4. The Convention must be limited to a specific topic;

5. Only state resolutions on a single top-

ic count when determining if a Convention should be called;

6. The validity of state calls should be determined by the most recent action of the state.

Further, to prevent a runaway convention, proposals that are more suited to a statutory, detailed approach rather than a constitutional approach are not to be considered.

LWV Press Release Re: Constitutional Amendments

The League of Women Voters today announced a new position calling for safeguards to govern the constitutional convention process of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

"The League believes that procedural safeguards must be put in place to protect democratic values and ensure that any proposed amendments reflect the concerns of citizens," said Elisabeth

MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

"We cannot afford to have a chaotic or unrepresentative process for amending the Constitution. We can't afford to let special interests dominate a constitutional convention," MacNamara con-

There are many current proposals for

constitutional amendments, from both the right and the political left, from a Balanced Budget Amendment to one curbing the rights of corporations. "Everyone should be concerned what a runaway, topsy-turvy Constitutional Convention might do. Before we head into uncharted territory that could affect our basic principles of government and our individual rights, we need to

Turn to *LWV Position, Page 7*

Consensus, from Page 4

porate the interests of all participants in building meaningful agreement. It does not mean that everyone is equally supportive of the agreement, but it does mean that all participants believe they have been heard and that the agreement reflects their concerns.

People can consent without agreeing. One individual cannot simply be a block to consensus. The group must agree that they have not reached consensus.

Sometimes a dissenter holds the keys to the wisdom of the group. Addressing the concerns and reservations of a dissenter often improves the quality of decision making for the entire group.

Occasionally members will ask "can't we just take a vote." The an-

swer is 'no'. Voting is no substitute for the informal and meaningful give and take of discussion and agree-

The end of the meeting review: The last ten or fifteen minutes at the end of the meeting should be used for the recorder to review the notes and reaffirm the sense of the meeting. This reassures everyone that their thoughts have been heard. It will also clarify where agreement has been reached. (Comments may be added to the form if a member wishes to express her/his opinion.)

Afterthoughts

Widespread member understanding and agreement is a foundation

value of the League of Women Voters. The participation of many Leagues in studies makes this possible. Your contribution is invaluable to the national study committee in continuing this legacy of thoughtful deliberation.

(The entire handbook can be found by searching "LWV consensus handbook")



Consensus Participants
Cynthia McKenzie, Ann Hamlin

Teen and Young Adult Mental Health Event

Our focus on health care defense led us to concern about protecting and promoting mental health in young people. After learning that the Affordable Care Act provides the same treatment benefits for mental as for physical health, we invited Dr. Mark Reinecke to speak on



Mark Reinecke

January 28th. CROYA (Committee Representing Our Young Adults) co-partnered with us and hosted the well-attended event.

We were very fortunate to have Dr. Reinecke, who is the Chief of Psychology at Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine and in clinical practice with children and adolescents. We were also fortunate to have our member Dr. Steven Patsic moderate the event. He is a MD retired from a career in public health.



Steve Patsic



Event Crowd

Tony Beltran, Executive Director of the Lake County Health Department, described services available from his agency. Lauren Giles, Individual and Family Counselor with Family Services of Lake County, provided additional information.

CROYA Executive Director Todd Nahigian spoke about services provided by that organization. High School District 115 was represented by Dean John Meyer, who is also on the Adult Board of CROYA.

Dr. Reinecke described the tasks that young adults must master, going from childhood to adulthood. Eighty



Todd Nahigian

it, but 20% have difficulty. They learn autonomy, becoming self-sufficient, self-directed persons able to function in society. They learn friendship, with social skills and a sense of belonging.

Achievement comes through academic competence and development of realistic vocational goals. Spirituality and values grow with increasing use of abstract as opposed to concrete thinking.

Sexual development deals with a 10-year gap between reproductive maturation and socially responsible behavior. Finally, adolescents experiment with possible selves and settle on their own self-concept. On this course, untoward things happen, and teens and young adults need to develop resilience.



Committee Representing Our Young Adults

Independent Map Amendment—Petition Drive

The petition drive to put drawing state legislative boundaries on the fall 2016 ballot has collected 503,500 signatures and 96,500 more are needed by April 30, 2016.

While our League members collected 350 of those signatures, we could do better! Consider that we have approximately 90 members, and each petition has room for 10 names. Do the math. If each member turned in one petition, how many signatures would we have collected? Another factor to consider is that some members have submitted several completed petitions! Are we feeling a bit guilty?

According to the Independent Map Amendment website, Jan Goldberg of LWV LaGrange Area has set a personal goal of obtaining 2000 signatures by



Spring of this year. As of July 2015 she had already collected over 600 signatures.

This campaign is supported by Change Illinois, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Union League Club, the League of Women Voters of Illinois, Independent Voters of Illinois, and Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, our State Senator Julie Morrison of the 29th District, and our State Representative Scott Drury of the 58th District. If passed, districts would be drawn by a commission independent of the political parties.

Lake County League News

Our friends in the Lake County League registered voters at Carmel High School, Lake Zurich High School, Warren Township High School and at Christo Rey St. Martin College Prep High School. Diane Sanderson and Susan Zingle organized these registrations. League and volunteers from other organizations helped register.

Deputy Registrars met students eager to exercise their civic right and duty to vote. As many as ten Deputy Registrars were kept busy as students took time from their lunch hour to register. The

17- and 18-year olds looked very proud as they carried their receipts away. A few older citizens were also registered at these events.

County voters can hear and question candidates for 10th Congressional District and for State's Attorney on Sunday February 21 at 1:30 P.M. at the Round Lake Beach Cultural and Civic Center, 2007 N. Civic Center Way, Round Lake Beach. It is cosponsored by the Round Lake Area Library and radio station WRLR 98.3 which will broadcast live.



Rosemary Heilemann

The Lake County Women's Coalition will honor Deerfield Leaguer Rosemary Heilemann at Bonnie Brook Restaurant in Waukegan on March 5, for her public service.

LWV Position, from Page 5

make sure some basic rules are in place," according to MacNamara.

The League supports these safeguards for a Constitutional Convention:

- 1) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret;
- 2) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote; and delegates should be elected rather than appointed;
- 3) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state;
- 4) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic;
- 5) Only state resolutions on a specific topic count when determining if a convention should be called; and

6) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention should be determined by the most recent action of the state.

The new League position is especially relevant because the Balanced Budget Amendment is close to achieving the number of states needed to require Congress to call a convention. "The states that have called for a convention on the Balanced Budget Amendment have not provided for the safeguards that are necessary. Any calls for a constitutional convention must have built-in protections to ensure it is not hijacked by a small minority," MacNamara said.

Article 5 of the U.S. Constitution

provides for two ways to amend the constitution. Congress can initiate an amendment or, if two-thirds of the states petition Congress to do so, a Constitutional Convention can be called to propose amendments. Under either mechanism, proposed amendments must be ratified by three-fourths of the states in order to take effect. There has never been a constitutional convention called under the U.S. Constitution.

"There are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. These problems must be solved before America embarks on a dangerous journey," MacNamara concluded.

LWV Sues to Protect Voting Rights

LWV US and affiliates in three states filed suit on February 12, 2016 in federal district court to reverse action by the Executive Director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) which restricts federal voter registration in Alabama, Georgia and Kansas.

LWV President Elisabeth MacNamara said, "voters should not have to face an obstacle course to participate and vote."

EAC Director Brian Newby unilaterally ruled states may require documentary

proof of citizenship on federal voter registration application forms. His decision was made without a vote of the full commission, despite that being a requirement of the 2002 Help America Vote Act.

Following a ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals (Kobach v. EAC), LWV MacNamara stated her expectation that the EAC action would be declared illegal on the basis that its language is state-specific.

She further stated, "This is now the fifth time the EAC has been pushed to give a different answer to the same question. Enough is enough. They can keep coming back but we will not tire of making sure they continue to fail."

"We had hoped that a reconstituted EAC would focus on improving election administration. This action by the executive director would make the election system worse. His action challenges the impartiality of the commission," according to MacNamara.

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area



P.O. Box 645 • Lake Forest, IL 60045

Find us on
FacebookLEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area*Still Going Strong Since 1926!*contact@LWVFLB.org
www.LWVFLB.orgDavid Cain
1720 Marquette Ct
Lake Forest IL 60045Wyn Cain
1720 Marquette Ct
Lake Forest IL 60045

60045511520

Calendar

Feb. 26: Program Planning
 Feb. 27: Issues Briefing
 Feb. 28: Candidate Debate
 Mar. 1: LWVUS program planning due
 Mar. 9: Board meeting
 Mar. 15: Primary election
 Apr. 13: Board meeting
 May 11: Board meeting
 Jun. 16-19: National convention

League of Women Voters
Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area
Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Liz Bradner	Co-President
Wyn Cain	Co-President
Marilyn Turchi	Membership
Joy Guscott-Mueller	Co-V.P. Program
Carol Gayle	Co-V.P. Program
Terry Desmond	V.P. Voter Service
Steve Potsic	Treasurer
Sharon Borg	Secretary

DIRECTORS

Linda Bartmes	Hospitality, LWV-Lake County Liaison
Jean Brown	Hot Topics Editor
David Mueller	LWV-LMR Liaison
Cindy Morehead	Director-at-Large
Ann Grant	Director-at-Large
Judy Grisamore	Director-at-Large

OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

Carol Russ	E-Alerts
Nicki Snoblin	Webmaster
Diane Sanderson	Newsletter Editor
Stan Sanderson	Newsletter Publisher
Mary Mathews	Facebook Editor

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."



LEAGUE LINES

SPRING 2016

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Inside this issue:

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Dessert & Program Plan
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- Know Your Gov. Awards
Fund-raising
New Board Position
Invitation to Contribute
Calendar 8

Vox Populi

Where is the informed
Electorate now?
Daily new wrinkles
Appear on my brow.

Populi's vox exhorts,
"Reubes, follow me!
I'm the meekest nut
On the tree;
So what if my words
And the facts don't agree!"

How distressing it is,
Confusing, at best; and...
There's so little time
To prepare for the test!

Breaking News! Liz Bradner is California-Bound!

After two years as President and five years as Treasurer, Liz Bradner is heeding a call from California. We will miss her quiet determined leadership, her passion for issues, and her smile as winsome as the parades she marched in.

Please join us in honoring Liz at the LWV-LF/LB Annual Meeting



on Wednesday, June 22 at Kitty Cole's house. Even if you can't stay for the business meeting, please stop by and raise a toast to Liz.

Call Wyn Cain for further information (847-295-3471).

See more pictures of Liz and League activities on Page 6!

Primary Election Debate

Candidates for contested party nominations debated on February 28 at the Highland Park Country Club. An estimated 300 people attended!

Representatives of the Leagues of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, Highland Park/Highwood, Deerfield and Glencoe planned the debate over several months. Terry Desmond, Ann Grant, Wyn Cain and Liz participated from LWV-LF/LB.

election.

Also debating that day were Democrat candidates for Lake County state's attorney Matt Stanton and Michael Perillo. They stressed the overturned conviction rate under State's Attorney Michael Norheim. Mr. Stanton proposed a



Mr. Stanton



Mr. Perillo

deferred prosecution program. Mr. Perillo plans a conviction integrity program which would review past and present cases. Both supported more diversity in the state's attorney's office. Mr. Perillo later won the nomination.



Ms. Rotering

Democrats seeking the nomination for 10th District Congressman were Nancy Rotering and Brad Schneider. Their policy positions were similar on gun violence prevention, support for Israel, immigration reform and money in politics. Ms. Rotering stressed her ability to get things done, like the HP assault weapons ban. Former Congressman Schneider asserted his ability to "hit the ground running" due to his relationships with elected officials. He won the nomination in the March 15 primary



Mr. Schneider



Liz with representatives of other Leagues at the Primary Debate

Co-Presidents' Letter

What an active year we've had! There are so many opportunities to be involved and learn about a variety of issues.

Reading the articles in this newsletter will remind you of all that has been happening in the League of Women

Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff. We hope you have benefitted from the varied events that have been offered.

As our mission states, our nonpartisan organization "works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy."

Let's keep up the good work! We're looking forward to seeing all League members at the Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 22nd. Save the date and come join this social time with your League friends.

Liz and Wyn

Dessert and Program Planning

"Where to spend our energies in 2016-2017" was the subject of a Dessert and Program Planning social on February 26.

Terry Desmond stepped up at the last minute to host at his lovely home in Amberly Woods.

Jane Parttridge's chocolate cake

and Linda Bartmes' homemade scones would have been enough reasons to gather, but we had business to attend to as well.



Peter Bensinger

Guest speaker Peter Bensinger, former head of the US Drug Enforcement Agency, described the need for public awareness and action on the spread of heroin use in the

northern suburbs. The heroin problem would fit within our focus on the Affordable Care Act, which was supported.

He also appealed to us to circulate more petitions for the Independent Maps amendment. Challenges are expected to the more than enough signatures already gathered. The coalition seeks 50% more signatures than legally required.

In addition, we decided to continue action on Gun Violence Prevention, the



Liz and Joy Guscott-Mueller



State Fiscal Crisis and Climate Change.

We want to include in our plans the LWVUS action plan to Make Democracy Work. This has three parts: Money in

Politics, Voting Rights and Voter Protection, and Redistricting Reform (see the Independent Maps drive in Illinois).

LWVUS decided to recommend to its convention that no new studies be undertaken but rather that effort be focused on action to solve these three problems. The seven focus areas were later supported by our local League board and will be recommended for adoption at our annual meeting in June.

Annual Meeting Coming Soon!

Be sure to mark June 22 on your calendar! That's the date of our annual meeting, where the very important work of planning our program for the coming year, adopting a budget, and looking at proposed changes to bylaws will be accomplished.

Kitty Cole has graciously offered her home for the meeting, which will begin at 6:45.

Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP ASAP! Please include \$25 per attendee to cover costs. RSVP to LWV-LF/LB, PO Box 645, Lake Forest IL 60045.

Monday June 22 at 5:30 PM

Kitty Cole's home
(address on request)
Lake Forest, Illinois

WVIL Issues Briefing

Leagueurs from Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, Highland Park and Glencoe met with Representative Drury and separately with Senator Morrison to discuss LWVIL questions on state fiscal policy, gun violence prevention, voter registration, the education funding formula, criminal justice, protecting the environment and a health care issue.

Senator Morrison does not expect a state budget until after the fall election, since it might change the parties' strength in the legislature. She thinks a bill requiring licensing of all gun dealers is the most likely to succeed. She has introduced a handful of bills to prevent gun violence, none of which have been passed. Senator Morrison supports automatic voter registration and closer access to early voting. She is sympathetic to downstate school districts which don't have the assessed valuation to support good schools, but she won't support a redistribution of state school aid that would take funding from schools in her district.

Senator Morrison agrees with the goal of reducing the prison population,

possibly by 25%. She also agrees released prisoners should be given a state ID to make it possible for them to get jobs and housing. She thinks there should be limits on use of expungement of the record for possession of small amounts of marijuana. She supports requiring providers with religious objections to fully inform their patients about alternative treatments (for example, abortion) even though the provider himself might be opposed.

Representative Drury has voted against piecemeal funding, even when proposed by Democratic leadership because he believes that takes the incentive away from passing a full state budget. Everyone in the legislature agrees revenue must be increased but not which taxes or which, if any, of Rauner's agenda to pass. In the meantime, the Comptroller is deciding which bills to pay and that is a "recipe for corruption". He says we need a graduated income tax that is revenue increasing, not neutral.

On gun violence prevention, Representative Drury advocates

mandatory licensing of gun dealers by the federal government. This would stop guns flowing into Illinois from other states, in spite of our relatively strict gun laws. He is a co-sponsor of automatic voter registration.

He agrees that more money is necessary for education but points out that other factors limit school success also. He opposes sending all of our property tax revenue levied for education to the state to redistribute, since the state might use it for other programs.

Representative Drury serves on the Legislative Commission on Criminal Justice where he has learned that mental illness issues affect 33% of the prison population. The Commission will report in July. He notes that towns with prisons depend on the goods and services the prisons buy there.

Representative Drury is a co-sponsor of the Clean Power Plant and the Coal Tar legislation. He also believes women should be told all options in birth control, since they have the right of choice.

Understanding the Budget Impass

What a dose of reality was delivered by State Senator Julie Morrison, State Representative Scott Drury and Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability Ralph Martire at the League's forum on state fiscal policy in April.

Drury pointed out that both Republicans and Democrats proposed unbalanced budgets for 2015-2016. Neither side was prepared to make the spending cuts or the tax increases necessary to write a balanced budget. Morrison said the decrease in the income tax rate in early 2015 created insufficient revenue to operate the state. Drury said the



Participants discuss Illinois' fiscal woes at L. F. College

piecemeal funding of state programs like elementary and higher education relieved the pressure to adopt an overall budget, and thus the public is not motivated to insist.

Martire provided data showing that Illinois has the lowest taxes of all its neighboring states. He advocated raising the income tax rate and creating a graduated income tax, applying the sales tax to services, and taxing retiring income, again as do surrounding states.

Both legislators indicated they would compromise by passing some of the governor's agenda, such as term limits and independent mapping of legislative districts, but not union-weakening proposals or tort reform. The hope seems to be quiet negotiating by rank-and-file legislators, not the leaders in Springfield. This is presently going on.

WV-LC News

while LWV-Lake County operates with just a board and no direct members, it fulfills many of the same functions as the three local Leagues. Candidate debates, legislative interviews, and voter registrations are conducted for those areas not served by the local League chapters in Lake County.

Legislative interviews are a good way to build relationships with state representatives and state senators. League members discuss with state elected officials those issues identified by LWVIL as needing attention. This helps with advocacy efforts as bills LWVIL supports go through the legislative process.

This spring, LWV-LC board members met with State Senator Terry Link, State Representative Rita Mayfield, and State Representative Sam Yingling. There is a pending meeting with State Senator Melinda Bush.

Over the months leading up to the primary, LWV-LC Directors registered a record number of new voters at six high schools, sometimes with help from local League deputy registrars. Also before the primary, the League co-sponsored a debate in Round Lake for the 10th Congressional Democratic candidates and candidates for Lake County State's Attorney.

As part of LWV-LC Program, Kathleen Wasik continued her successful work on the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System. Local League chapters throughout the state were sent new updates about the project. Some chapters have expressed interest and requested more information. Recently the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital sent a letter (*see next page*) commending Kathleen's efforts.

LWV-LC is involved in a number of environmental initiatives. It works with

two coalitions, Livable Lake County (LLC) and Clean Power Lake County (CPLC). LLC educates and advocates for sustainable transportation and economic development, along with preservation of natural resources in Lake County.

Its current campaign is against the extension of Rt 53 into Lake County. LWV-LC has objected to many aspects of the project for decades.

CPLC is actively trying to close the NRG Energy (NRG) owned coal burning plant in Waukegan and is pushing for a smooth transition for the workers and the City of Waukegan. The plant pollutes the air, pollutes Lake Michigan, and stores hazardous coal ash.

LWV-LC Directors have testified in Springfield and locally before the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Pollution Control Board. Directors have attended environmental rallies, press conferences, and a NRG shareholder meeting. Currently, members are asking County and State legislators to sign a letter to NRG asking for clean energy investments.

Other environmental efforts include attending the Citizens Advisory Group monthly meetings concerning the cleanup of the Waukegan Harbor and nearby brown fields. In addition, a LWV-LC Director is involved with the Des Plaines River Watershed Group.

Complementing its local environmental efforts, LWV-LC is collaborating with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) by co-sponsoring two regional planning workshops in June. One will be in Grayslake and one in Waukegan. The Waukegan meeting will be in English and Spanish.

These workshops present the Burnham

plan and topical issues affecting the Chicago region. Participants' input will help develop the 2050 comprehensive plan which will be implemented in 2018 for the Chicago region.

In May, LWV-LC held another type of regional outreach effort. The League signed on with the Chicago Community Trust and held one of the "On the Table" discussions. This was the third year the Trust has sought such community input, and was expecting over 50,000 participants.



Hosts Diane and Stan Sanderson
at "On the Table"

The premise was that over a meal guests would discuss their community and suggestions for action to drive progress across the region. League members from the three local League chapters in Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, Highland Park/Highwood, and Deerfield along with a member from Glenview/Glencoe, and representatives from Lake Forest Open Lands and Mother's Trust enjoyed a light luncheon buffet at the First Presbyterian Church in Lake Forest. At four tables, approximately 30 men and women shared interesting perspectives and completed a survey.

LWV-LC is looking forward to a busy fall with candidate debates at multiple locations, numerous voter registration drives, three high school mock elections, and continuing action on our focus issues. All League members are welcome at our board meeting on the third Wednesday of the month. Contact Linda Bartmes for more information.

Remember! LWV-LF/LB Annual Meeting June 22!

Letter honoring Kathleen Wasik's efforts (see article, previous page)

 Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital of Chicago

May 9, 2016

Ms. Mary Matthews
Co-President
League of Women Voters - Lake County
P.O. Box 645
Lake Forest, IL 60045

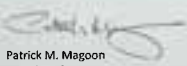
Dear Ms. Matthews:

On behalf of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, I wish to thank and commend the League of Women Voters of Lake County for their outstanding support for the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS). I understand from Maryann Mason that the efforts of Kathleen Wasik have been highly instrumental and essential for engaging the coroners of Lake and Winnebago Counties and the Lake County Sheriff to guarantee their participation in this critically important project. Ms. Wasik has spent countless hours networking and meeting with county officials, including the Lake County officials to advance participation of the Coroner's Office.

Ms. Wasik is also a member of the IVDRS Advisory Committee and attends quarterly meetings where she provides valuable insight as an informed citizen and League member. It is her involvement at the grass-roots level that encourages people to address the problem of violence in our communities and work toward developing solutions.

Without the assistance of the League of Women Voters of Lake County, IVDRS would not have the exposure and advocacy required to make it a successful surveillance system.

Sincerely,


Patrick M. Magoon
President & CEO

cc: Maryann Mason

League of Women Voters and Liz

Liz did it all: taking action on issues, legislative interviews, running annual meetings, program planning, testifying at Lake Forest City Council, parades, candidate's debates, voter registration, petitioning, fund raising and MORE!



Collecting and distributing petitions



Testifying for gun control at Lake Forest City Hall



Running 2013 annual meeting—David Mueller, Scott Redbridge, Marilyn Fuchs, Liz and Wyn Cain



Liz, Jean Brown dressed for L. F. parade 2011



Providing voter registration materials



Liz with Marilyn Scherfing and Linda Burkhart at Trust Builders for women's reproductive healthcare program



Interviewing Congressman Brad Schneider



Co-Presidents Wyn Cain and Liz at the 2014 Lake Forest parade



David Polak, David Sedberry, and Liz at Trust Builders for program planning

Know Your Government Awards Announced

LWV-LF/LB encourages local middle school students to learn about our government offering our annual "Know Your Government Award" for outstanding achievement.

Stephanie Victor presented the awards at Deerpath Middle School to three 8th

Anne Vanderbilt presented awards to Julia Tanna, William Shen and Catherine

graders who excelled on the US Constitution test and class participation. They are Mary Margaret Reay, A.J. Shaw and William Dee.

Terkildsen at Lake Bluff Middle School's honors assembly. All the Lake Bluff awardees had scores on the test.

Congratulations award winners!

Fund-Raising

Thinking that our League needs more funds to provide programs and to cover per member payment increases from the state and national Leagues, the board initiated a fund-raising project.

A committee of Tom Meskel (chairman), Marilyn Turchi, Joy Guscott-Mueller, Ann Grant, Steve Potts, Liz and Wyn planned to solicit local businesses. For \$75, they can have their business advertised in our

newsletter, membership directory, website and Facebook. The businesses would be identified as supporters of the League. We plan to solicit 200 members of the Chamber of Commerce and other firms used by our members.



**Wholly
Mackerel!**
Fine Fish Fast
1-555-555-555

Proud Supporter of the League of Women Voters-LF/LB

New Board Position

The Board established a new position of Co-Vice president of Program and Volunteer Support.

The responsibility of the position will

be to establish interest groups and find volunteers to help with programs and special events.

Sharon Borg offered to take this

position, starting after the annual meeting June 22.

The goal will be to increase member participation in League.

Your Article? Your Pictures?

Your publisher hates empty space!

This could be your article. Wouldn't you like to share your take on things? Remember the reporter's Five Ws--
Who, What, When, Where and Why!

Let your inner writer out!

If writing isn't your thing, what about photography? As a recent e-News article from LWVIL proclaimed, "We LOVE Pictures!"

The article gave some great suggestions for picture takers.

• Obtain permission if photograph-

ing a minor. If at a school, check with the administrators.

• Close ups are good.

• Group shots where individuals are too tiny to identify are usually bad.

• People photos need names.

Is the picture fuzzy, out of focus, or really small? Many smart phones are capable of taking excellent photos, but a dedicated camera often produces superior results.

We do love pictures! If you attend a League event, bring your camera and click away. Select the best and share them with us!



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Facebook

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area

Still Going Strong Since 1926!



contact@LWVFLB.org
www.LWVFLB.org

Calendar

- June 13: LWV-LWV/LB Board Meeting
June 16-19: National convention
June 22: LWV-LF/LB Annual Meeting
June 23: LWV-Lake County Annual Meeting
July 4: March in Lake Bluff 4th of July Parade
Aug 3: March in Lake Forest Day Parade
Aug 10: LWV-LWV/LB Board Meeting
Sep 7: Fall Kick-off Meeting TBA

League of Women Voters
Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area
Board of Directors

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Wyn Cain	Co-President
Marilyn Turchi	Membership
Joy Guscott-Mueller	Co-V.P. Program
Carol Gayle	Co-V.P. Program
Terry Desmond	V.P. Voter Service
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Cindy Morehead	Director-at-Large
Ann Grant	Director-at-Large
Judy Grisamore	Director-at-Large

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Nicki Snoblin	Webmaster
Diane Sanderson	Newsletter Editor
Stan Sanderson	Newsletter Publisher
Mary Mathews	Facebook Editor

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."



LEAGUE LINES

SUMMER 2016

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

2016 Fall Kick-Off

Inside this issue:

- Fall Kick-Off President's Letter
- Annual Meeting Report 2
- Lake Bluff July 4th Parade 10th Dist. Debate 3
- LWV-Lake County News
- MLD Report Registrars Alert Lake Forest Days Parade C of C Bash 5
- Sponsor Page 1 6
- Sponsor Page 2
- Calendar 8

Come together Sunday, September 18 from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. at 555 E Spruce, Lake Forest with our member, **Honorable Susan Garrett** and all your other member friends and possible new members to hear what Susan has to say. She will speak on the timely



and fascinating topic, "INSIDE ILLINOIS POLITICS."

Susan represented us as an Illinois State Representative and as an Illinois State Senator. Now she is chairman of an organization called Illinois Campaign for Political

Reform.

Join us for the update followed by a glass of wine and some refreshments in a late 1800's farmhouse restored and expanded to an ex-

quisite 21st century home, surrounded by perennial gardens featured in the North Shore



Garden Walk. The home is situated on what was called "Strawberry Fields Farm" when Lake Forest began.

Please reply to Linda (847) 234-7069 by September 13.

An RSVP is requested, but not required. Seating is limited.



Members, please let Linda know if you need a ride.

President's Letter

Dear League members,

What a time to belong to the League of Women Voters! The need to educate and advocate at all levels of government has never been greater than in this election year.

At the LWV national convention in Washington D.C. this past June, Liz Bradner and I were reminded of the need to increase participation in the democratic process.

Through the issues voted on at June Annual Meeting, our League is advancing that participation. Watch for stimulating activities on the environment, gun violence prevention, fiscal policy, health care

and candidate debates. Learn more about interest group opportunities and upcoming programs that help us educate and advocate for our important issues.

See President's Letter continued on Page 2

The Right to Vote



Sue Shelton White (1887-1943) came from Henderson, TN. She was a teacher and court reporter who worked with both militant and mainstream southern suffrage groups. While serving as editor of *The Suffragist* in 1919, she was imprisoned for burning an effigy of President Wilson. She toured the US on the "Passion Special" train, earned her law degree in 1923, was active in the New Deal and helped create the Social Security program.



Presidents' Letter- continued from P. 1

Be sure to attend our Membership Social that kicks-off our new year Sunday, September 18th.

It's a great time to reconnect and find out more about our plans. Invite a prospective member to join us



and hear Hon. Susan Garrett briefly give us behind-the-scenes insight into Illinois politics and the organization — she leads the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform.

One final when an walked us around

the Hall of Statues in the U.S. Capital she commented at the Suffrage Statue of the three women and noted that there was a part that represented "unfinished business"!

How appropriate that even today we are carrying on with our "unfinished business" issues. It's a proud and important time to be a member of the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area!

—Wyn

Annual Meeting Report

Kitty Cole graciously offered her beautiful home for our annual meeting this

friend new

League member, Cynthia McKenzie. Our group was given the words so we could all sing along!



Steve Patsic presenting to Liz

year. We all had a good time. There was great food, time to socialize and, most importantly, a fond farewell to Liz Bradner.

We presented her with a photo collage, (compliments of Mary Mathews), a giant farewell card signed by all, a yummy cake, and, best of all, a song written and performed on the ukulele by her long-



We also found time to actually do some business. We voted on the recommended programs and action items for the coming year and elected the slate of officers. We will miss Liz and hope to continue all the good work she did.

A big thanks to all who helped: Marilyn Turchi and Sharon Borg who helped me with planning, shopping, and SCHLEPPING. Thanks to



Cynthia McKenzie and her uke

Kitty not only for her home but for donating the wine and coffee. More thanks to all those who helped, including Joy and David Mueller, for helping to clean up and

trying to restore Kitty's home to

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Bartmes

P.S. SAVE THE DATE! Our holiday



Barry Bradford

luncheon will be Friday, Dec. 2nd. It will once again be held at Froggy's Highwood and Barry Bradford will be the

speaker. Time and topic will be determined at a later date. Good fun guaranteed!

Lake Bluff Independence Day Parade

Five members of our League of Women Voters - LB/LF Area marched in the Fourth of July parade in Lake Bluff. We are grateful to Carol Russ for the use of her car and for her preparation of relevant signs.

ow-up "Uncle Sam" rode in the of the car. On the car were various , such as "Our eyes are on your s" or "Make democracy work".



Sharon Borg and Cindy Morehead walked in front of the car with the League of Women Voters banner stretched between them. Happie Dart wore a sandwich board with a map showing the 17 states that have enacted legislation restricting voting rights.

Wyn Cain and Carol Russ walked carrying signs saying "Educate and Agitate, Stop Gun Violence, On-Line Registration". The crowd lining the parade route seemed very appreciative and several people came up to talk to us along the way.

We welcomed the chance to remind the community of the issues the League of Women Voters is working on in order to make democracy work.



Candidate Debate— 10th Congressional District

Come hear an important Candidate Debate for the candidates running for offices of the 10th Congressional District and local State Legislative Offices on Sunday, October 16, 2016.

The debate will be held at the Lake Forest High School Raymond Moore Auditorium at 1285 N. McKinley Road in Lake Forest.



Rep. Dold

Representative Robert Dold and challenger Brad Schneider have been invited to participate. Other



Mr. Schneider



Ms. Morrison

office holders and challengers who have been invited include Julie A. Morrison, Benjamin Salzberg,

Scott Drury, and Martin (Marty) Blumenthal.

This debate is hosted by the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff



Mr. Salzberg

Area, Deerfield, Highland Park/Highwood and Glencoe/Glen-

The doors open at 1:00 P.M. and the debate will begin at 1:30 P.M.

with time for questions from the audience.

Look for more information on our website www.LWV-LFLB.org as the date approaches. Please contact Terry Desmond if you can help at the event. We hope to see you there!

LWV-LC News

Delegates from the three local chapters enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at the Taste of Paris Restaurant in Mundelein for LWV-LC's annual meeting in June. They voted for a two-year Program focusing on Air Quality/Water Resources/Climate Change, Criminal Justice, Gun Control, Transportation & Land Use, and Violence Prevention.

A few hours later, many LWV-LC directors attended our Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) workshop in Grayslake. LWV-LC sponsored two area public outreach efforts by CMAP regarding a new regional plan for northeastern Illinois called "On to 2050".

An interesting side note, the presenter for CMAP was Jane Grover, a member of LWV-Evanston. Small world! She was thrilled to work with us.

Our guest speaker at the July board meeting was Carla Wyckoff, Lake County Clerk. She gave us the lowdown

We will be participating in the Lake County Rising event in February, an offshoot of the international One Billion Rising movement to stop violence against women. Also, we have three candidate debates planned: Sun. Oct. 9, Sun. Oct. 23, and Tues. Oct. 25.



Two of the many discussion groups: At the near table (far left), Rosemary Heilemann from LWV-Deerfield; (standing) CMAP presenter Jane Grover, LWV-Evanston

After a presentation, audience members broke into groups to discuss the components they felt would be important for a sustainable and prosperous future for the Chicago region. Many had never been involved before and were surprised about the amount of information to consider. It is not just about roads and land use!

Other directors attended the second workshop LWV-LC sponsored in Waukegan a week later. Working with different coalition partners for each venue provided a broader perspective of the issues, with very different discussions. Turnout for both was excellent, and LWV-LC looks forward to continuing to work with CMAP.

about all the changes needed for the upcoming election. Also, the Clerk's office really needs more election judges and hopes League members will sign up. Terry Desmond attended our meeting, and he can give you more information if you would like to help the Clerk's of-

LWV-LC has a very busy fall planned. There will be three mock elections in October: Round Lake High School, Grayslake North High School, and Grayslake Central High School. High Schools throughout Lake County again are contacting us for voter registration.

Between those events, we will continue working with the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System, provide testimony to the EPA about the Clean Power Incentive Program, work with coalition partners Livable Lake County and Clean Power Lake County, observe the Lake County Board meetings, attend Des Plaines River Watershed Planning meetings, and the monthly meeting for the Waukegan Harbor Citizens Advisory Group.

We are looking forward to things slowing down after the election.

Membership Leadership Development (MLD)



(L to R): Marilyn Turchi, Anne Vanderbilt, Jan Dörner, Wyn Cain

The LWVIL MLD meeting held in Aurora Saturday, July 23, 2016, was attended by our LWV-LF/LB Membership Chairman Marilyn Turchi, President Wyn Cain and new member, Anne Vanderbilt.

They met with the LWVIL State coach, Jan Dörner, and League members from around the state to discuss new opportunities to engage members wanting to make a difference in the democratic process.

Deputy Voter Registrars Alert!

Calling all deputy voter registrars and those would like to register voters. We have a number of opportunities before this upcoming election.

Newcomers' Club of Lake Bluff & Lake Forest has asked for our help registering new residents on Sept. 15, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Exmoor County Club in Highland Park. We plan

to be there.

For those who have registered citizens in the past but aren't sure if your commission is active, Wyn can check with the County Clerk's office and, if necessary, update your standing. For those of you who would like to become a registrar, Wyn can arrange for your training.

Later in the month, we will join other

League chapters and organizations around the country for National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 27. We will have details later. For more information, please call Wyn 847-295-3471.

Voter registration has been a League staple since its founding in 1920. Opportunities abound! Please consider joining this important League outreach.

Lake Forest Days Parade

LWV-LF/LB entry in the Lake Forest Days parade on Wednesday, August 3, 2016, was a definite success.

Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi led the parade, carrying the LWV banner, while Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi carried the LWV flag. Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi were joined by Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi. Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi were joined by Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi. Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi were joined by Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi.

noise, waved, and encouraged the crowd. Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi were joined by Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi. Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi were joined by Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi. Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi were joined by Wyn Cain and Marilyn Turchi.

pleasure, seemingly to especially note the presence of Uncle Sam riding in the back of the parade float.



Summer Bash with Chamber of Commerce

The invitation was tempting. Summer Bash, a Celebration of Co. The event highlighted non-profits in the community, and we felt the League should be involved!

On July 27 at Bernie's Book Bank, newly elected President Wyn Cain already started visibly representing our League with help from Uncle Sam, she



Wyn Cain & Mary McHugh

asked everyone who stopped at our table if they were registered to vote. They all were, and some interesting conversations ensued.

LWV-LF/LB joined the Lake Forest Lake Bluff Chamber of Commerce for a trial period of a half year. There are advantages to joining the Chamber, and we will try it out and determine if it makes sense for our League chapter.

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President/Owner

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while putting on your
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Calendar

- Sept. 18: Membership Kick-off "Inside Illinois Politics"
with Hon. Susan Garrett
- Oct. 12: LWV-LF/LB Board meeting - Lake Forest Bank
- Oct. 16: Candidate Debate LF High School
- Nov. 9: LWV-LF/LB Board meeting - Lake Forest Bank
- Nov. (TBA) (program TBA)
- Dec. 2: Holiday Luncheon at Froggy's French Cafe
with Barry Bradford

League of Women Voters Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

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Wyn Cain	President
Terry Desmond	V.P. Voter Service
Marilyn Turchi	V.P. Membership
Joy Guscott-Mueller	Co-V.P. Program
Carol Gayle	Co-V.P. Program
Sharon Borg	Co-V.P. Volunteer Support
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Linda Bartmes	Hospitality
David Mueller	LWV-LMR Liaison
Ann Grant	Director-at-Large
(open)	Comm/Publicity

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Mary Mathews	Facebook Editor
Ann Hamlin	New Aggregator
Diane Sanderson	Newsletter Editor
Stan Sanderson	Newsletter Publisher
Nick Snoblin	Webmaster

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LEAGUE LINES

FALL 2016

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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The Right to Vote



Jennie Collins (1828-1887), an orphan, worked in the mills at age 14. She became active in abolitionist and labor cause. She founded a Boston working woman's charity and spoke against child labor. Her 1870 speech at a national women's suffrage convention was highly praised. Collin's book *Nature's Antiservant* provided an unique view of working class life and was recently reprinted.

WHAT'S THE SITUATION AFTER THE ELECTION?

Catch your breath after the election, and then it's time to turn to climate change.

Join us for the exciting LWV LF/LB forum on "Climate Change, Post-Election Analysis: The Future of Climate Change Strategy New Administration." The program is Saturday, November 12, 2016, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Stuart Room at Gorton Community Center, 400 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest.

Our panel will bring together three speakers with different kinds of expertise in climate change issues. Tom Skilling, the WGN-TV Meteorologist popular in Chicagoland house-



Tom Skilling, WGN-TV

holds, will be joined by two other professionals in climate change work: a research meteorologist and an attorney and former administrator in both the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Douglas Sisterson is Research Meteorologist with Argonne National Laboratory and

Senior Manager for the U.S. Department of Energy Atmospheric Radiation Measurement



Douglas Sisterson, Argonne Lab

(ARM) Climate Research Facility. Mary Gade of Gade Environmental Group, LLC, formerly was Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Region V.

This educational forum, bringing together meteorology, climate change science, and law and public policy, will help us learn more about climate change and government and private policy toward it. We will ask our speakers for insight into what we may expect of the new administration in the way of climate change. Bring the whole family and your questions about climate change Saturday, Nov. 12, 4:53:30 p.m., Gorton Community Center.

— Carol Gayle



Mary Gade
Gade Environ.

Voters Registered at Newcomers Luncheon

Wyn Cain and Ann Grant were present at Exmoor Country Club in Highland Park on September 15 to register voters at the Newcomers luncheon. We met new Lake Forest and Lake Bluff residents and offered information on

voting and League of Women Voters membership. It was a great opportunity to spread the word about our League and register voters for the coming election. (See picture, page 2)

—Ann Grant

President's Letter

Our September Kick-off welcoming members and prospective members began our busy fall! Marilyn Turchi, Membership Chairman, reported fourteen new members since the last directory was published. We have had new member get-togethers to welcome and discuss League participation opportunities.

Join me in welcoming: Kathleen Barnett-Flynn, Beth Berg, Hope Freeland, Robin Huszagh, Jillian Jarvinen, Deborah Lanigan, Lisa Lekberg, Alta Mekaelian, Don and Kathy Pierson, Liz Platt,

Eve Rochelemagne, Beth Teich, and Floyd John Trexler.

Candidate Debates, Climate Change Interest Group Meeting, Climate Change November Forum, and our Annual Holiday Luncheon all make for a very busy fall!

Thank you to all who assisted with these events to make them successful. We look forward to an exciting 2017! As always information about our activities is posted in our newsletter, e-alerts and on our website www.LWV-LFLB.org and Facebook page.

Remember that renewing your membership soon means your name will be included in the Membership Directory available at the Dec. 2 Holiday Luncheon. Contact Marilyn Turchi, Membership chair for any questions.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Holiday Luncheon when the Carrie Chapman Catt Award will be presented to former Co-president, Mary Mathews!

—Wyn Cain, President

Lake Forest Sustainability Plan

The City of Lake Forest's Planning Commission met October 12, 2016, and voted to include the recently drafted Sustainability Plan to the "Environment Chapter of the City's Comprehensive Plan."

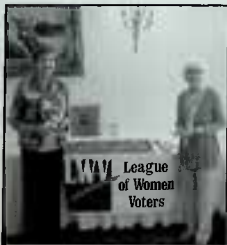
The League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area President Wyn Cain addressed the commission that evening stating "that the League has

been a strong supporter of environmental protection and combating climate change and that the League is looking forward to being actively involved in the implementation of the plan."

If you are interested in having a copy of this plan or being a part of this activity, contact Wyn.



Wyn speaking at hearing (screen capture)



Wyn and Ann at Exmoor Country Club Newcomers Luncheon (see p. 1)

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

invites members and guests to

Holiday Luncheon featuring Barry Bradford

"The French Connection" (Julia Child: Spy & Chef)

Froggy's French Cafe, 306 Green Bay Road, Highland

Date: Dec. 2 Time: 10:30 a.m. Cost: \$50 per person

Presentation at 11:00 a.m. Luncheon served following the program

Prior to Barry Bradford's presentation, Mary Mathews will be honored with the fourth Carrie Chapman Catt Local Leadership Award

Contact Linda Bartmes: 847-234-7069 Mail in entree choices with your check

Candidates Square Off in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff

It's election season and we have been busy! On Thursday, October 13, the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area (LWV-LF/LB) sponsored a debate for five separate Lake County races at the Lake Bluff Recreation Center. Candidates for Lake County Coroner, Circuit Court Clerk, Recorder of Deeds, State's Attorney, and County Board District #13 partici-

Some of the races were controversial which lead to some spirited answers. Almost 100 residents attended the two-hour session moderated by Valerie Krejcie from the League chapter in Evanston.

A few days later, LWV-LF/LB lead a coalition with the Union League Club



Lake County Coroner Candidates, Oct. 13 Debate

of Chicago and our neighboring Leagues in Deerfield, Highland Park/Highwood and Glenview/ Glencoe to host a highly anticipated candidate debate on Sunday, October 16, at Lake Forest High School. More than 300 people from across the 10th District attended the debate.

Candidates for the closely watched 10th Congressional District squared off first. Incumbent U.S. Rep. Bob Dold, R-Kenilworth, and Brad Schneider, D-Deerfield, who held the seat from 2012-14, answered a series of questions posed by moderator Judy Hoffman, an Evanston League member. Audience-submitted questions were reviewed by League volunteers for compliance with League guidelines and to avoid duplication.

Question topics included reproductive freedom, gun violence, the Middle East,

campaign reform, social security, and more. These questions yielded lively discussions of the issues, with the moderator exercising deft control of the candidates when they drifted from the League's requirement to address only the question posed.

Candidates for the Illinois Senate and State Representative races concluded the afternoon in a second 75 minute debate. Two Incumbent Democrats, Senator Julie Morrison and Representative Scott Drury, faced off against Republican newcomers Benjamin Salzberg and Marty Blumenthal. All four candidates answered the same questions, ranging from the Illinois budget impasse, tax reform, business development in Illinois Lake County, education funding, transportation of hazardous materials and beyond.

The debate was spirited, yet there seemed to be a consensus recommendation by all four candidates to vote "yes" on the transportation lockbox amendment on the ballot. (Sidenote: LWVIL recommends voting "NO" for this constitutional amendment. See LWVIL website for more information.)

Even though there were ten other debates between Dold and Schneider this time around, unlike the previous two times, the media still attended. Channel 5 NBC News recorded the debate and showed a clip on the news that night. Students with Merrill School of Journal-

ism at Northwestern were present and followed up with reports for their paper. Reflecting the national attention this race earned, a reporter from the McClatchy News interviewed audience members before they entered the auditorium. Local reporters from the Daily Herald, the Daily North Shore, and the Lake Forest Leader took notes quickly and filed their articles almost immedi-

Terry Desmond, V.P. of Voter Services chaired our League's efforts in these debates, ably assisted by veterans Ann Grant and Mary Mathews and newcomers Robin Huszagh and Peg Determan.

The Committee wishes to thank the Union League Club; David Kohn, Executive Director of Public Affairs at the Union League Club; and League volunteers: Carol Russ, Anne Vanderbilt, Ann Hamlin, Happie Datt, Cindy Morehead, Lisa Dietrich, Linda Bartmes, Stephanie Victor, Lake Forest TV, Lake Forest High School and National Honor Society volunteers, our sister League co-sponsors, their many volunteers and the community for their participation. A special thanks to Kathy O'Hara, Student and Community Service Coordinator at Lake Forest High School, for arranging for the use of the school and coordinating.

Both debates can be viewed on our website www.LWV-LFLB.ORG, Lake Forest public access channels 17 and 19, and on YouTube.

—Peg Determan



Mr. Dold & Mr. Schneider, Oct 16 Debate

A Warm and Welcoming Fall Social Kick-off



What a great day! Our annual fall membership kick-off event took place on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, September 18th. The weather was sunny and warm. The food and beverages were delicious and refreshing. The lovely home and gorgeous gardens supplied a comfortable setting for new and old friends. We couldn't have asked for nicer conditions.

After time for socializing, President Wyn Cain welcomed new members, long-time members, and potential members. She introduced the Board of Directors, gave a preview of the year's activities, and encouraged everyone to get involved. With so many activities, there are many opportunities for both big and small commitments. Wyn then introduced our guest speaker, the Honorable Susan Garrett.

Susan Garrett is our own League's past president, which was followed by a stint as state legislator for 14 years. Her current position as Chair of Illinois Campaign for Political Reform made her uniquely qualified to give us a behind-the-scenes view of Illinois politics.

Interwoven with the mind-boggling facts of the state's current situation, Susan included examples of her personal experiences with a touch of humor. She addressed the independent map amendment, the budget impasse, and campaign finance reform (all League top issues). The informal chat setting enabled Susan to answer everyone's questions. We adjourned to assuage our concerns with tasty refreshments, positive conversations, and hopes for solu-

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to kick-off our busy year with such a successful, well-attended, informative, and fun event! Volunteers included Linda Bartmes, Sharon Borg, Marilyn Turchi, Wyn Cain, Carol Russ, Joy Guscott-Mueller, Ann Vanderbilt, Jillian Jarvinen, and Judy Grisamore.

The League is very grateful to Stevie Clark for opening up her lovely home, Guscott-Mueller Law Firm for the wine, and Fresh Market for donating the



LWVIL State of State Luncheon

Democracy is truly back in the schools, thanks to the efforts of Shawn Healy, Robert R. McCormick Foundation's Civic Learning Scholar, and his

The League of Women Voters State of the State Luncheon was held on September 21, 2016, at the Union League Club of Chicago. Lake Forest/Lake Bluff League President Wyn Cain and League members Jo-An Sabonjian,

Abbie Fassnacht, and Sharon Borg attended.

All were delighted to learn that next year a heightened form of civics, including "discussion of current and controversial issues, service learning, and simulations of the democratic process" will be part of the required high school curriculum in Illinois.

Our League members and other interested parties are invited to observe this

version of civics in action in "Democracy Schools," which have been piloting the curriculum. There are currently 54 Democracy Schools in Illinois. One of the pilot schools in our area is Stevenson High School in Buffalo Grove. Mentors are available, and teacher training is available.

At the luncheon, speakers from the

"Civics" continued on p. 5

"Civics" continued from page 4

school system, the McCormick Foundation, the Illinois General Assembly, and the Illinois League of Women Voters enthusiastically endorsed Mr. Healy's efforts and the passage of the amendment to the School Code of Illinois.

The next step seems to be working on moving this approach to the middle school level.

Another highlight of the program was the insightful commentary and reminiscences by keynote speaker Cheryl Cor-

ley, National Public Radio journalist. She emphasized the role and importance of civics in journalism and gave specific, interesting examples from her own career.

—Sharon Borg



(Above) Sharon Borg, Jan Dörner, Wyn Cain
(Left) Abbie Fassnacht, Sharon Borg (seated)
(Sarah Brune, Wyn Cain, Jo-An Sabonjian)

Discussion Group Meeting (October 25) Report

The League is experimenting with new ways of generating study topics

we as individuals and League members can do. About 15 informed and deeply concerned League members took part. As people introduced themselves and shared their experiences related to climate change, it became clear that many League members are already deeply involved.

The group focused on two areas for immediate action: the League's Cli-

mate Change Program

and the Lake Forest Sustainability Plan. Program Chair Joy Guscott-Mueller talked about the upcoming League program about election results will affect climate change efforts. (Please see the article on Page 1 of this issue) Joy asked for volunteers to help publicize the event and

to work on November 12. The City of Lake Forest Sustainability Plan is an important local initiative in which we actively involved. (See article on Page 2)

The next Climate Change Interest Group "Drinks and Discussion" meeting will be Thursday, November 10 at Panera Bread in Lake Bluff at the corner of Waukegan Road and Rte. 176 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Contact Sharon Borg for more information.

—Carol Gayle



which are both interesting and signifi-

Through informal small-group discussions, we can tap into the rich resources of our members' knowledge and experience. President Wyn Cain and Membership Chairman Marilyn Turchi brought the idea back from the Membership Leadership Development meeting last July.

The first informal discussion group "Drinks and Discussion" met October 25 at the new Starbucks in Lake Forest to talk about climate change and what

we as individuals and League members can do. About 15 informed and deeply concerned League members took part. As people introduced themselves and shared their experiences related to climate change, it became clear that many League members are already deeply involved.



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while putting on your
make-up and talking
on the cell phone.*



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SUNSET FOODS

The LWV LF/LB Area gratefully thanks Kitty Cole, Stevie Clark, LB Recreation Center, LF High School, and Lake Forest Bank & Trust for providing space for our events. We also thank: Lake Forest TV, Milburn Cain & Co., and NextWord Communications, LB for services rendered. Additionally, we thank Fresh Market of Lake Forest and Guscott Mueller Law, LLC for providing refreshments.

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area

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Calendar

- Nov. 10: (5:30 p.m.) Climate Change Group at LB Panera
- Nov. 12: (4-5 p.m.) Climate Change Forum, Gorton
Coffee
- Dec. 2: (10:30 a.m.) Holiday Luncheon at Froggy's
- Jan. 17: Iran program
- Febuary program planning meeting TBA

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."

League of Women Voters Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

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LEAGUE LINES

WINTER 2017

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Inside this issue:

Program Planning
Women's History Month

President's Letter
Volunteers Needed
Welcome New Members
Holiday Lunch Recap
D&D Interest Group

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Iran Nuclear Agreement
Train Advocacy
Terra Cotta Warriors
Climate Change Forum

Opinion: March on D.C.

March on Chicago
LWV-Lk. Mich. Region
Fund Raising Report
Our Sponsors- Ad Page

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Calendar

2 You won't want to miss the
3 Program Plan-
4 ning mem-
5 bership meeting
6 on Tuesday, Feb.
7 21, 2:00 p.m! We
8 will get together
9 to plan our advo-
10 cacy/actions for
next year. What
can we do to
have an impact in our local communities
and at the state level? The heightened in-
terest in grassroots action is giving us an
opportunity; let your voice be heard!

Reconnect with long-time friends and
meet some of our 27 new members.
Once again, Cindy Morehead is hosting
and opening her lovely home. There will
be ample provisions to sustain our energy
level as we discuss our potential activities
for next year along with our recommen-
dations to LWV Illinois.

Prior to the meeting, you can review
our local positions in the front of your

The Time is Now!



directory. The state League positions can
be found on its website. Scroll down the
right-hand side of the home page to find
links to "Program Planning" and *Where
We Stand*.

Watch for your bright pink invitation.
Please let Linda Barunes (847-234-7069)
know if you can attend. The steps to
Cindy's house can be difficult; so, the
garage door also will be open. If you have
questions or need a ride, let Wyn Cain
(847-913-5730) know.

— Marilyn Turchi, V.P. Membership

The Right to Vote



Alice Paul (1885-1977), was

suffragists were her model:
parading in the streets, picketing,
and public speaking. She and

amendment. She broke with
Carrie C. Catt (too conservative)
to form the National Woman's
Party and organized "Silent
Sentinels" to protest at the
White House despite threats of
confinement due to "insanity." She
devoted the rest of her life to
cause of gender equality.

Women's History Month Luncheon- Save the Date!

North Shore Leagues have revived the
popular luncheon celebrating Women's
History Month. On Saturday, March 11,
from 11:30 to 2:00, League members can
enjoy lunch at the Wilmette Golf Club
and hear a panel discussion about voting
rights led by experts from the ACLU.

League members from Lake Forest/
Lake Bluff, Highland Park/Highwood,

Glenview/Glencoe, Evanston, Deerfield,
Park Ridge, Wilmette, and Winnetka/
Northfield/Kenilworth will attend. It is a
wonderful opportunity to meet League
members from nearby chapters.

More information to follow. Watch
your e-alerts, or call Wyn Cain for more
information. We may arrange carpools.

President's Letter

Have you noticed? Our League has been busy! Attendance at the Climate Change Program with Tom Skilling, Douglas Sisterson and Mary Gade was standing room only. The Climate Change Interest group meetings have been increasing both in number of participants and in enthusiasm!

Highlighting the December Holiday Luncheon was honoring Mary Mathews with the Carrie Chapman Catt Award. We also learned more about Julia Child, chef and spy, from Barry Bradford. Beginning the new year was our first Hot Topic event

about Iran and the Nuclear Agreement in a conversation with Lake Forest College professor Ahmad Sadri and Jerome McDonald, WBEZ program host of the "Worldview" program.

Needless to say, our membership has grown along with these exciting and informative programs. Members are being welcomed at individual coffees and group gatherings to become acquainted with our League and our involvement in "making democracy work."

Come meet them and other

League friends Tuesday, February 21, when we gather at Cindy Morehead's home for the Program Planning meeting. Your participation is important as we discuss and decide where to focus our attention for the coming year.

What issues are you most wanting to learn about? Collectively your voice will be heard! Delicious desserts while visiting and planning are always on the agenda! RSVP to Linda Bartmes.

Hope you are as proud as I am to be a member of the LWV-LF/LB!

— Wyn Cain

Volunteers Needed for Candidate Debates

Candidate Debates – For the April 4, 2017 Consolidated Election

Candidates will be facing contested races on the April 4th ballot and League committee members are deep in the process of planning debates for these contested seats.

The League will host two events. The first scheduled for 1:30 on March 12th at Dickinson Hall, 100 E. Old Mill Road, Lake Forest will present contenders for Lake Forest High School D115, Lake Forest School District 67, and the City of Lake Forest Alderman Ward 2.

With eight candidates vying for four LFHS D115 board openings, the afternoon should prove to be

engaging one.

The second debate focusing on candidates for the Village of Lake Bluff Board of Trustees and Village Clerk will begin at 2:00 on Sunday, March 19th, at the Lake Bluff Park District, 355 W. Washington Ave., Lake Bluff.

Terry Desmond and his commit-

tee will need volunteers to greet candidates, register and usher attendees, retrieve and review audience questions, etc. If you are available to assist on either date, please contact Terry at terrydesmond62@yahoo.com. His phone number is Home: 847-735-1428 / Cell: 847-638-1428.

— Robin Huszagh



Welcome, New Members!

We welcome the following members to our League and look forward to meeting them at a new member coffee or at our meetings. Call Wyn Cain to arrange a time to learn more about the League at a New Member Coffee.

New members since July 1, 2016:

Edith Rasmussen Ahern, Beth Berg, Jim Borg, Marge Burda, Carol Davis, Claire Esker, Kathleen Flynn-Barnett, Adrienne Fosberg, Joyce Foster, Robin Huszagh, Janet Katien, Nicolet Kelly-Schmeisser, Melca Lusk, Alta Mekaelian, Julie Morrison, Molly Munson, Lois

Nicol, Melissa Oakley, Eve Rochelemagne, Laurie Rose, Barbara Rosenstock, Zhuming Smith, Karyn Stafarski, Trisha Steele, Carolyn Stuard, Carrie Travers, John Tredler.

Welcome

Holiday Luncheon- C'est magnifique!

Our Holiday Luncheon "The French Connection" was a big hit! Both new and longtime members along with invited guests filled the dining room at Froggy's French Cafe on Dec. 2nd. Past President Liz Bradner flew in from California to reconnect with everyone and enjoy the festivities.

Not only did we enjoy delectable French cuisine including an ooh la la dessert, we salivated over Barry

Bradford's presentation of everyone's favorite French chef, Julia



Child, who secretly was a spy!

Unfortunately, Mary Mathews did not speak French when she was honored with the 4th Annual Carrie Chapman Catt Local Leadership Award. The Membership team led by Marilyn and Linda did an outstanding job of organizing this yearly signature event. This definitely is an event to look forward to each year; see you next year! C'est magnifique!

— Linda Bartmes, Director Hospitality

(Below) One of the many tables at the luncheon



(Left) Carrie Chapman Catt Award recipient Mary Mathews

(Below) President Barry Bradford and friends



Drinks & Discussion - Climate Change Interest Group

Please join us for our monthly Drinks and Discussion Climate Change Interest Group on Thursday, February 23, 2017 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Starbucks on Western Avenue in Lake Forest. This group has been meeting since the fall and is really taking off, with 16 members and guests attending the January meeting.

Facilitated by Joy Guscott-Mueller, the discussion included many participants reporting that they had attended the Women's March in Washington and in Chicago and were

inspired to begin taking action on many issues, especially in the area of climate change and, more broadly, environmental sustainability.

In addition to reviewing information regarding developments in climate change policy, as a result of the new administration, the group also brainstormed and discussed ideas for local and national action items.

Come join the February discussion, hear about climate change related developments, and participate in initiatives that result from the

group's brainstorm! We look forward to seeing you!

For additional information, please contact Joy Guscott-Mueller, Sharon Borg, or Carol Gayle, Co-Vice Presidents of Program.

— Joy Guscott-Mueller



Hot Topics

The League held the first in a series of Hot Topics discussions. Jean Brown, in charge of Hot Topics, had invited members for Dr. Sadri to be available to discuss the Iran Nuclear Agreement. With the help of the Program Committee, she was pleased with the presentation and the successful outreach. Stay tuned for Jean's next interview.

Iran Nuclear Agreement

On January 17, 2017, a thoughtful and attentive audience of League members and people from the community gathered in the Chapel at Lake Forest College to listen to a wide-ranging discussion about the Iranian Nuclear Agreement.

The presentation was in the form of a discussion between Dr. Ahmad Sadri, Gorter Professor of World Islamic Studies and Sociology at Lake Forest College, and Jerome

McDonnell, Host of WBEZ's popular and informative noontime discussion program "Worldview."

Dr. Sadri was born in Iran and educated in the US, earning his Ph.D. from the New School in New York. The presentation was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area and Lake Forest College's Office of Community Education.

The thrust of Ahmad Sadri's argument was that the Nuclear Agreement was, on balance, an arrangement that was to the advantage of both the U.S. and Iran. However, he warned that there were op-

ponents of the agreement in both countries who could destroy it and increase the dangers of a nuclear arms race. He believes rejection of the Agreement by the U.S. would only aid the Iranian hard-liners.

Dr. Sadri and Mr. McDonnell answered several questions from the audience. McDonnell's informed and level-headed participation in the discussion added greatly to the clarity of the conversation and to the education of those who attended the program.

The League is grateful to both Dr. Sadri and Mr. McDonnell for sharing their knowledge and views with us and the community through their conversation about the Iran Nuclear Agreement. If you missed this fascinating discussion, the event was videotaped and can be seen on our website www.LWV-LFLB.org.



Mr. Jerome McDonnell and Dr. Ahmad Sadri

Advocacy is Chugging Along

As you know, the League is an advocacy organization. One of our functions is to speak up on an issue when supported by one of our positions. This year, climate change is an issue we have focused on. As transportation is a major contributor to climate change, we were interested to learn of Amtrak's proposed changes here in Lake Forest.

What you might not realize is that Lake Forest is the only community in Lake County with three railroad corridors, and a fourth one close by. Not only that, but the tracks running

alongside Waukegan Road are used by three different rail companies: Amtrak, Metra, and Canadian Pacific. Any changes there will have a domino effect.

The League's position does support expanded train service with the idea that it will take heavy polluting trucks off the road. However, as with most things, the devil is in the details. LWV-Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area joined with the municipalities of Lake Forest, Deerfield, Bannockburn, Northbrook, Glenview, and with Metra and LWV-

Glenview/Glencoe in asking for more details with an Environmental Impact Statement.

You may want to go to the city's website at <http://bit.ly/2kTKA2o> (shortened address) to learn about the proposal. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) may decide by June whether to go ahead with the proposed plans for structural changes, or agree that more information is needed. We await their decision.

Terra Cotta Warriors Museum Excursion

On Wednesday, Jan 4, 2017, a group of intrepid Leaguers traveled to the Field Museum of Natural History to learn about China's first emperor Qin Shihuangdi and his underground army of over 7000 soldiers in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province in northwestern China.

The group first assembled at Happie Datt's home for a power-point presentation of the 170 objects; including bronze artifacts, weaponry, nine statues of warriors and a horse that were in the exhibit!

Though the warriors, with

average height of 6-feet, were impressive, we also learned that 2000 years ago Qin Shihuangdi consolidated his "kingdom" by introducing standard currency, standard weights and measures, a simplified uniform script, uniform width "toll" roads and standard interchangeable hardware for the horse driven carts!

These entertaining excursions are a way for members to engage in and enjoy the many attractions Chicago offers. All members are encouraged to take advantage of

these wonderful opportunities!

I hope to see large turnouts in the future!

—Happie Taungett Datt



Meigs and Ann Grant

Climate Change Forum with Tom Skilling a Great Success!

Our League had a terrific turnout (over 175 attendees) for our climate change forum, "Post-Election Analysis: The Future of Climate Change Strategy in a New Administration," on November 12, 2016. The feedback has been excellent, and many new members have joined the League as a result.

Our panel included Tom Skilling, WGN-TV Meteorologist, Doug Sisterson, Research Meteorologist with Argonne National Laboratory, and attorney Mary Gade, former US EPA Region V Administrator.

The forum was co-moderated by League members David Mueller,

attorney and League Liaison to the LWV-Lake Michigan Region, and Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller, attorney and Co-Vice President of Program.

The panelists were outstanding and communicated, both through their remarks and powerful audio visual materials, the importance of addressing critical climate change issues and how current policy might be impacted by the incoming administration. All three speakers stayed after to speak with audience members. We are grateful for their generous donation of time.

A video of the event is available

on our website, and Doug Sisterson's book, written with last year's Climate Change speaker, Seth Darling, *How to Change Minds About Our Changing Climate*, is avail-

able at the Lake Forest Bookstore.

The success of the event could not have been accomplished without the teamwork practiced throughout our planning and preparation. Over twenty volunteers worked on this event, not including the efforts of our Climate Change Interest Group and Board of Directors who posted flyers throughout the community and got the word out. Many thanks to each of you.

Through this program, we learned that the future of addressing climate change in the new administration is uncertain and possibly in peril. We are confident, however, in the League's ability to effectively educate and inform the public in a way that empowers individuals and the community to seek solutions and advocate for local, state, and national policy that contributes to the betterment of our government and society at large, and, ultimately, the choices we make to protect our environment. Our collective efforts toward this successful forum demonstrate that effectiveness.

—Joy Guscott-Mueller



Panelists Doug Sisterson, Tom Skilling and Mary Gade

Opinion

Disclaimer: The following article is the writer's opinion and does not represent an official position of the League.

WHY I JOINED THE WOMENS MARCH IN WASHINGTON D.C. ON JANUARY 21, 2017

by Happie Tanneke Datt

Leaving the comfort and security of home to march with hundreds of thousands of women and men became imperative when the country elected Donald J Trump as our 45th President, a candidate who employed a Machiavellian campaign strategy to divide the country. Stewart Patrick at the Council of Foreign Relations writes *"much of the state-sanctioned violence taken for granted in Machiavelli's day—whether the conquest of empires, the taking of slaves, or the commission of atrocities—is both legally and morally impermissible today, thanks to the expansion of human-rights law, humanitarian law, the laws of war, and the proliferation of international norms, treaties, and institutions defining certain acts as beyond the pale, authorizing sanctions or intervention to put an end to them, and providing judicial mechanisms to hold perpetrators account"*



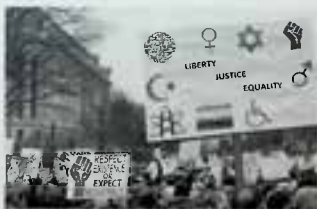
As Trump had resorted to uncivil denigration of minorities and demonstrated his willingness to take positions to undo policies concerning women's rights, human rights, clean air and other League positions, I could not stand by silently.

The long drive to DC in a borrowed Prius car, [gas bill was \$66 round trip]; graciousness with which the vendors custom printed sweatshirts and professional signs with the words "This

is who we are – INDIVISIBLE"; the waiting at the metro stations, at the portable lav's, at the corner of 3rd St and Independence Ave, until the 500,000+ woman, men and children marched along Independence, Constitution and finally Pennsylvania Ave towards the White House was energizing! Gracious, polite and friendly citizens surrounded us with signs held high reflecting each ones' passion for a particular cause under threat from this government.

Our work is not done – I urge everyone to remain vigilant and write often to Members of Congress [MOC], with either a thank you for supporting your cause or when opposing legislation. I recommend signing for alerts to support or oppose legislation with <https://www.countable.us> that allows you to choose your focus providing a template to use. Take time to check out

<https://indivisibleguide.com> to develop grass roots strategies to make MOC's listen.



March on Chicago

We saw an endless crowd punctuated with pink. The signature box-eared pussyhats surrounded us, and signs floated above the pink hats. Some of

the signage was quite aggressive: "Girls just wanna have fun-damental human rights," to "This pussy grabs back!"

Actually, there were too many of us to march. We filled the entire east loop, Grant Park, and Michigan Avenue. People filled both sidewalk and street. The Trump Tower was voronite selfie site for snapping photos with building's enormous letters filling the background.



My lasting memory of the March on Chicago will be the power and unity I felt. I urge all to stay active!

— Carol Russ

LWV-Lake Michigan Region Report

The LWV Lake Michigan Region Inter-League Organization met October 14-15, 2016 for its annual conference in Porter, Indiana. The LWV-LMR focuses on environmental and natural resource issues, including biodiversity and native plants, water quality, storm water management and climate change. Our League was represented at the conference by David Mueller.

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is unique in many ways. It consists of eight units interspersed with state parks, residential communities, commercial, heavy industrial and utility land



*Traverse Bay Marsh, Michigan
(From the LWV-LMR web site)*

uses. It has a long history of grass roots citizen advocacy to preserve and improve the dune ecosystem.

Attendees heard presentations from

speakers and were able to explore the area through several field trips. At the LWV-LMR Annual Meeting, Krista Grimm (LWV-LaGrange Area) was elected President, replacing Henrietta Saunders, who has become treasurer for LWV-US.

The Conference and Meeting provided an opportunity to meet LWV members from several states and share a wide range of experiences and strategies. For information on how to become involved or to learn more, contact our LWV-LMR Liaison David Mueller.

— David G. Mueller

LWV-Lake County Report

It's election season again! LWV-Lake County has a number of candidate debates planned: three in Waukegan, one in Hainesville, and one in Round Lake Beach. LWV-LF/LB member Kathleen Wasik continues her work in expanding the Illinois Violent Death

Reporting System, housed at Lurie Hospital. She convinced Lurie Hospital to accept Lake County as one of the two counties to participate in their trial program regarding opioid deaths. Linda Bartmes and Sally Zeit are planning a spring program about the mental health

court, with a focus on keeping mental patients out of jail while providing better healthcare services. If you are interested in issues at the county level, please contact Linda or Sally for more information.

Fund-Raising Report

You will again notice ads in our newsletter. Please thank our advertisers by patronizing their businesses and/or telling them you appreciate their support.

Fifteen ads have been collected. Proceeds will help us to provide speakers and programs, and to cover per member payment increases from the state and national Leagues.

Committee members include Marilyn Turchi, Joy Guscott-Mueller, Ann Grant, Steve Potsic, Wyn Cain, Carol Gayle, and Tom Meskel.

— Tom Meskel

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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Calendar

- Feb 21 Program Planning Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Cindy Morehead's home
- Feb 23 Drinks & Discussion- Climate Change Interest Group, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Lk. Forest Starbucks on Western Ave
- Mar 4 Issues Briefing "Making Democracy Work for Justice" 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., University Center (525 S State St.) Chicago
- Mar 10 Great Decisions Discussion Group 1:30 p.m., Tweed Room, Lake Forest Place
- Mar 11 Women's History Month event 11:30 - 2:00 p.m., Wilmette Golf Club Restaurant (3900 Fairway Dr., Wilmette); Topic: Voting Rights

Legislative Interviews TBA in Feb e-alert.

Tentative: Feb 24- Sen. Julie Morrison;

Mar 17- Rep. Scott Drury

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."

League of Women Voters Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

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League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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Jolly Holiday Luncheon!

Start the holidays off right by attending our annual Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 8, at Froggy's French Cafe in



Highwood (306 Green Bay Road). This is a perfect time to bring a friend or come together with a group of League members. Valet parking is available. The event begins at 10:45 a.m.

The award-winning historian Barry Bradford returns as our speaker, with this year's topic, "The History of Political

Satire in America." We will also honor Cindy Morehead with the Carrie Chapman Catt Local Leadership Award. Cindy joined the board of LWV-LF/LB in 1995 and served for 14 years, holding a multitude of key leadership positions. She continues to be an active League supporter, and we look forward to honoring her at this year's luncheon.

Limited seating, RSVP by December 1. Please return bottom of invitation mailed out in November with \$50 payment and menu choice. (Checks only to "LWVIL Ed Fund," PO Box 645, Lake Forest 60045). This luncheon is funded by the LWV of Illinois Education Fund; \$10 is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. (\$55 at the door.) Please contact Linda with

questions: 847-234-7069. It promises to be a great time! The food, as always, will be delicious!

—Linda Bartmes



Barry Bradford

The Right to Vote



Emma Willard (1787-1870) embraced education and independent thinking. She started school in Berlin, CT, at age 15; by 17 she was teaching and at 19 was in charge. She worked for women's education, deeming it more important than suffrage. Responding to Thomas Jefferson's admonitions after she addressed the NY State Legislature in 1819, Emma argued reason and religion teach us that "we too are primary existences... not the satellites of men." A prolific writer, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep" is well-known.

President's Letter

Notice as you read through this newsletter, the wide variety of programs our League participated this fall season! We began with a memorable afternoon at Shoreacres honoring our League's commitment to civic engagement. It was especially fitting to honor Margaret Hart for her civic leadership through the years.

For National Voter Registration Day on September 26, members of LWV-LF/LB

reported for duty throughout the area — we had a dedicated crew in many places! In October, we were involved in an array of different programs with varying topics. Thank

Continued on p. 2



Wyn Cain

President's Letter (Continued from p. 1)

you to all for your hard work — with your participation, our League is very visible!

I had a delightful surprise in September when past League president, Diane Lloyd, brought over a scrapbook with League materials dating back to 1928!

The large black binder begins with a 1928 news article about Mrs. Frank P. Hixon of Lake Forest who was then treasurer of the



Wyn & Diane Lloyd



National League of Women Voters and then follows publicity articles through 1983. We are now in the process of preserving

these records before giving them to the Lake Forest Historical Society. If you would like to view the scrapbook, please contact me.

Our Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 8, at Froggy's French Cafe is fast approaching! Be sure to RSVP and join us for this spirited event.

Your board is looking forward to continuing an active year. For more hands-on opportunities, call a board member and share your interests.

Looking forward to seeing you and your friends at the Holiday Luncheon!

—Wyn Cain

Celebrating Civic Engagement — Fall Kickoff

Margaret Hart (front); L to R: Bob Lansing, Kathleen O'Hara, Wyn Cain



L to R: Bob & Mary Shaw, Terry Desmond, David Cain, Beth Berg

At the annual Fall Kickoff on September 10, we celebrated civic engagement by honoring the long-time service of League member and Lake Forest resident Margaret Hart. She is an example to us all with her years of involvement and dedication to many organizations.

Lake Bluff President Kathleen O'Hara and Lake Forest Mayor Robert Lansing also offered a great overview of the current issues of their

respective local governments.

Shoreacres provided a gorgeous setting and the weather was picture-perfect for members to meet-and-greet and get to know one another better.

The event included several donated prizes to support the mission of the League: generous wine and food baskets from Fresh Market and Sunset Foods, dinner for four from Del Rio Restaurant, and high tea for six from Deerpath Inn. It was a lovely beginning to the 2017-2018 year.

—Marilyn Turchi

Thank you to our generous contributors:

Deer Path Inn
Del Rio Restaurant
Fresh Market
Gorton Center
Lake Forest Bank and Trust
Lake Forest TV
Sunset Foods



A Cornucopia of Program Events

Our local League participated in a cornucopia of programs this fall. In all, more than 320 attendees participated in the wide range of events offered, plus several are available online for further outreach. Many thanks to our outstanding speakers, moderators, co-sponsors, and volunteers who contribute to our success!



State Taxes, Municipal, and School Impacts: On October 3, LWV-LF/LB co-sponsored "A Fiscal Stress Test: How the State's Decisions Impact the City and Schools of Lake Forest" with the City of Lake Forest and Lake Forest School Districts 67 and 115 at Gorton Community Center in Lake Forest. Co-Vice President Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller moderated the forum, which included panelists Lake Forest City Council Alderman and Finance Committee Chairman Jed Morris; Lake Forest School District 67 Board President Mike Borkowski; and Lake Forest School

District 115 Board President Reese Marcussen.

They discussed the impact of the newly passed state budget as it relates to both city and school finances. After an informative presentation, a robust and thorough question-and-answer session followed, with participation by the elected officials, as well as Lake Forest City Manager Robert Kiely; Elizabeth Holleb, director of finance and IT; and Superintendent of Schools Mike Simeck.



Future of Rail Freight Traffic: Our League chapter provided moderator and volunteer support to "The Future of Rail Freight Traffic" symposium hosted by the City of Lake Forest and the Villages of Bannockburn, Deerfield, Glenview, and Northbrook. The event was held at Trinity International University in Bannockburn on October 11. This well-attended program brought interested members from many communities, especially because the topic of freight

being transported by local rail lines has generated much attention in the Chicago region.

The symposium addressed current freight issues, cargo transportation, safety, and environmental impacts, as well as what the Chicagoland area can expect in the future. The panelists in-

cluded Joseph P. Schwaninger,



Ph.D. (School of Public Service and director of the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development, DePaul University); Mark Walbrun (vice president, practice leader rail and transit operations, Hatch MacDonald); Laura Wilkison (executive vice president, Metro Strategies); and Audrey Wennink (director of transportation, Metropolitan Planning Council).

Carol Russ, past president of LWV-LF/LB, expertly moderated the event by presenting a wide variety of questions put to the panel by audience members.




Illinois State Budget Series: Hosting the third in its series of programs on the Illinois state budget, LWV-LF/LB hosted "Beyond the State Budget Impasse: Impacts and Next Steps" on October 25 at Gorton Community Center. Previous programs in the series included speakers state Rep. Scott Drury and Ralph Martire, executive director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.

The distinguished panel to discuss the new state budget and its impact on state programs and finances included state Sen. Julie Morrison;



From left: Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller, Robert Kiely, Jed Morris, Elizabeth Holleb, Reese Marcussen, Mike Borkowski, Michael Simeck, Wyn Cain, Jennifer Hermes

Continued on p. 4 (see )

(continued from p. 3)

John Bouman (president, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law); and Sarah Wetmore (vice president and research director, Civic Federation of Chicago). The program was moderated by Susan Garrett, chair of the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform. She is also a former state representative and state senator in our area and served as past president for our League. Her past experience as a legislator provided high-level expertise that contributed to the excellent insights, perspectives, and information shared at this event.

A notable first for our League, Julie Morrison appeared live from Springfield via the internet because she was called to a veto session. We appreciate that she was able to keep the meeting date, and our ability to confer with her via livestream was seamless. Thanks to Drew Hill, Gorton Community Center, Rich Torres for helping make this technological endeavor a success!

We Extend Our Thanks: Co-Vice Presidents of Program — Sharon Borg, Carol Gayle, and Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller — wish to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who made programming a success this fall season, including Jim Borg, Marge Burda, Hattie Datt, Terry Desmond, Ann Grant, Cynthia Morehead, David Mueller, Lois Nicol, Carol Russ, Elizabeth Teich, Marilyn Turchi, and Anne Vanderbilt.

As we plan for future events in 2018, we invite you to participate in these forums and programs. We are always in need of question readers (read the questions the audience submits for repetition, appropriateness, etc.) and card runners (hand out blank note cards to the audience for their questions, collect for the ques-



L to R: John Bouman, Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller, Sarah Wetmore, Susan Garrett, Wyn Cain

tion readers, take approved questions to the moderator). We also need set-up help, greeters, and help at the registration table. To sign up for an upcoming event, please contact Sharon Borg at slborg@comcast.net. Plus, always plan to attend events and bring a friend! When you share the League with a friend, everybody wins!

—Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller

2017 State of the State Luncheon

On October 11, the League of Women Voters of Illinois hosted its annual State of the State Luncheon at the Union League Club in Chicago. This year's theme was "Shining the Truth: Keeping the Heat On."

The Union League Club is a perfect venue for this event — a stately building filled with art and history. League members and guests easily

filled the room and anxiously buzzed about the featured speakers.

LWVIL President Bonnie Cox opened the meeting and introduced speakers U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and Renee Ferguson, an award-winning investigative reporter. All three noted the leadership and contributions of Ida B. Wells, who was a journalist, newspaper editor, suffragette, and early leader of the civil rights movement. Wells' inspirational quote, "The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them," was the catalyst for the event's theme. Together, the presenters called on the

audience to be informed, stay current on issues, and keep pressure on our elected officials to serve our democracy. It was very motivating.

A number of LWV-LF/LB members attended the event: Steve and Helen Potsic, Dave and Wyn Cain, Jim and Sharon Borg, Mary Mathews, Judy Armstrong, Aurie Pennick, and Jeanne Kearby. We listened to LWVIL's kickoff campaign to fundraise \$200,000 by 2020 to celebrate the League's 100-year anniversary. What a good investment in the League's future!

In closing, I recommend members attend future State of the State events to be enlightened and informed as well as to enjoy meeting other League members in our continued efforts surrounding our democracy.

—Jeanne Kearby



LWV of Lake County: Ralph Martire Forum

The League of Women Voters of Lake County held its "State and Taxes: Connecting the Dots" public forum at the Byron Colby Barn in Grayslake on September 19. Ralph Martire, executive director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA), presented. The purpose of the event was to promote a better understanding with the community about state taxes. It was well-attended and resulted in many questions from the audience.

The event kicked off with an interactive series of poster boards that asked participants what they appreciate most about Lake County past, present, and future. Attendees could pin their answers on the boards. This type of activity is called appreciative inquiry and was organized and put together by Grayslake resident and committee member Kristy Miller.

The intent of the exercise prior to the meeting was to remind people to

focus on what they appreciated most about Lake County and how tackling frustrating and complex problems like taxation should begin in appreciation of what we have. The goal is that we don't lose what we love as we plan for the future. It set a positive tone for the event, allowing

for good questions in what can be a contentious topic.

A follow-up "Drinks and Dialogue" event for participants took place two weeks later to further discuss questions raised at the forum.

—Julia Wasik



L to R: Judy Armstrong, Jeanne Kearby, Linnea Strack, Amy Knutson Strack, Ralph Martire, Kathleen Conlon Wasik, Aurie Pennick

Climate Change Interest Group

The Climate Change Interest Group officially kicked off the year on September 28 with a presentation by Walter Willis, executive director of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO). Willis informed the group about the many services SWALCO provides to Lake County residents. Our group was particularly interested in the reduction in solid waste disposal from the numerous recycling services provided to Lake County residents.

We also learned about SWALCO's legislative impacts at the state level. We extend our thanks to Steve

Whittington and Wendy Spreenbergh of LifeWorking/Coworking (Lake Forest) for donating their beautiful space for this event.

For our late October meeting, the Climate Change Interest Group engaged in lively conversation regarding recent developments in national climate change policies. We also brainstormed local action items relating to the environment and climate change. Key topics include coal tar sealants (Marge Burda and David Mueller) and food scrap composting/recycling issues (Ann Grant and Lois Nicol).

Unless otherwise noted, we meet the fourth Thursday each month at Starbucks (672 N. Western Ave. Lake Forest) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The next meeting is November 30; no meeting in December. See the calendar for upcoming dates; all are welcome to join!

—Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller and Sharon Borg

Climate Change Group Meeting Dates

November 30	February 22
No meeting in Dec.	March 22
2018 Dates	April 26
January 25	May 24

Welcome, New Members!

Without new members, an organization is unsustainable. We rely on new members, not only to sustain us but also to enhance us with their

energy and presence.

We welcome Cindy Corrigan and Jared Rose (Lake Forest); Patricia K Hogan (Waukegan); Carol Kay

(Mundelein). Thank you for joining. We hope to see you at meetings and programs so we can get to know you.

—Marilyn Turchi

Success! — Voter Registration

Once again, our League joined thousands of organizations across the county to participate in National Voter Registration Day (NVRD). Our community-wide effort was very successful! Led by Mary Mathews, the team of Bev Adamczyk, Kitty Cole, Hattie Datt, Terry Desmond, Claire Esker, Carol Gayle, Ann Grant, Chris Moses, Rita Pickard, Jared Rose, and Laurie Rose provided contacts, made arrangements, and registered 59 people. Some folks are still responding to the outreach. Key to our success was partnering with other Lake Forest and Lake Bluff entities that allowed us to reach a widespread audience and build relationships.

Student Involvement: During the summer, our student member, Jared

during NVRD. In September, Jared posted flyers around the school and rallied eligible students. Our deputy registrars were very busy on September 26 thanks to Jared's work!

Municipal Partnerships: On September 5, the City of Lake Forest passed a Resolution supporting National Voter Registration Day with Mayor Robert Lansing presenting a certificate to President Wyn Cain. The Village of Lake Bluff passed a Proclamation about NVRD on September 11, accepted by Past-President Cindy Morehead at the Village board meeting.

Overall, we conducted voter registrations at Lake Forest City Hall, Lake Forest Municipal Building, Dickinson Hall, Lake Bluff Public Library, Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest College, LFHS, Lake Forest Library, and Shields Township. We garnered good publicity in our partners' newsletters and in social media. All-in-all, everyone was pleased with the results to raise awareness about voter registration.

Newcomers' Club: We had another opportunity to reach potential voters with our annual invitation from the Newcomers' Club of Lake Bluff & Lake Forest. Ann Grant and Wyn Cain attended its fall luncheon at Exmore Country

Club. Ann provided voter registration while Wyn mingled with the guests and answered questions about the League.

Deputy Registrars: With Illinois becoming the tenth state to enact automatic voter registration, there are fewer requests for deputy registrars. However, the need exists, and the League will respond! We are happy that some of our new members took the registrar training and are ready to help out locally or throughout the state. Welcome Judy Boggess, Cindy Broten, Claire Esker, Chris Moses, Lois Nicol, and Kirsten Stuteville.

For information about being a deputy registrar, or if you need to change your registration, or know someone who needs registration assistance (we can make personal visits), please contact Mary Mathews (847-295-1494).

—Mary Mathews



Laurie Rose, Jared Rose

Rose, met with Lake Forest High School Superintendent Michael Simeck and Assistant Principal Jim Sullivan. He convinced LFHS to collaborate and allow the League to provide voter registration to students



Wyn Cain, Mayor Lansing



Wyn and Ann Grant

voters at Newcomers' Club

Great Decisions: On To 2018!

The Great Decisions foreign policy discussion group met on November 10 to discuss "Nuclear Security," the last article in the 2017 Great Decisions booklet published by the Foreign Policy Association.

Thinking ahead to 2018, if you would like to join the group and receive the 2018 Great Decisions

booklet, please mail a check to Cindy Morehead (14 Forest Hills Road, Lake Bluff, 60044). The cost is \$28.50. This year's topics include Russia's foreign policy; media and foreign policy; Turkey: a partner in crisis; and global health.

The 2018 booklets will be published in January and will be delivered to

Ann Grant. We are always happy to welcome new members. Please call either Ann (847-234-2782) or Cindy (847-295-6470) to attend. The first meeting in 2018 will be Friday, February 9, at Lake Forest Place.

—Cindy Morehead

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

P.O. Box 645 • Lake Forest, IL 60045



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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area

Still Going Strong Since 1926!



conlnet@LWVFLB.org
www.LWVFLB.org

Marilyn Turchi
1045 S Ridge Rd
Lake Forest IL 60045

60045-363645

Calendar

- Dec 8** Holiday Luncheon
(Froggy's, 306 Green Bay Rd, Highwood)
- Jan** Program Events TBA
- Jan 25** Climate Change Interest Group
- Feb** Candidate Debates TBA
- Feb** Program Events TBA
- Feb 9** Great Decisions Foreign Policy Group
- Feb 22** Climate Change Interest Group
- Mar 9** Great Decisions Foreign Policy Group
- Mar 20** Primary Elections

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League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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The Right to Vote



grew up in Montana became a state. The children, she worked father, a carpenter and rancher. She noted that women of that time did the same work as men but had no political voice. She was active in social work following college but the Suffrage bug bit her in 1910. Returning to Montana, she ran as a Republican becoming the first female member of Congress. She was an adamant pacifist, known for her resolve in opposing war as a solution to disputes.

An Evening with Trevor Potter: Money in Politics

Kudos to Jean Brown! For years Phyllis Albrecht and Jean shared their desire to



**Trevor Potter, President
Campaign Legal Center**

have Trevor Potter speak to us. (He spoke at the LWVUS convention in 2012) This past fall, when he stopped in Chicago, Jean contacted him and chatted about family matters. In April, Potter notified her that he would be in the area again in May. They quickly arranged for his coming to Lake Forest on May 11. We are very fortunate to have such a prominent expert speak about the corrupting influence of money in politics, a long-standing League issue.

Trevor Potter may be best known as Stephen Colbert's super PAC lawyer, which resulted in numerous appearances on *The Colbert Report* in 2012.

Potter is a former Chairman of the Federal Election Commission. He has been described by the American Bar Association

Journal as "hands down one of the top lawyers in the country on the delicate intersection of politics, law, and money." Mr. Potter is the founding President of the Campaign Legal Center in Washington D.C., a non-profit which helped defend the McCain-Feingold law in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Potter will talk about his work to protect our democracy and his fight for the right of average citizens to participate in the political process. Dark money, conflicts of interest, election spending, ethics, and campaign finance reform are some of the topics he will cover.

The Adlai Stevenson Center of Democracy in Mettawa is co-sponsoring, as is the Office for Community Education at Lake Forest College. The event will be held in the Lily Reid Holt Chapel at Lake Forest College, on Thursday, May 11, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. You will not want to miss this opportunity.

—Mary Mathews



**Trevor Potter with
Stephen Colbert**

LWV-LF/LB Annual Meeting - Come One, Come All!

Get acquainted with new members and visit with everyone. Enjoy good food and good company! The meeting will be held at the lovely home of Laurie Rose on Wednesday, June 7th at 5:30. Watch for your Annual Meeting Packet in the mail. We will discuss and vote on program,

bylaws, budget and nominees for offices.

RSVP by May 26th to Linda Bartmes at bartmes@bcglobal.net or call her at 847-234-7069. Please send your check for \$25 to LWV-LFLB, P.O. Box 645, Lake Forest, IL 60045. See you there!

—Linda Bartmes, Hospitality

President's Letter



Wyn Cain

Our League has been busy the last few months! Legislative Interviews were held with Senator Julie Morrison and Representative Scott Steury. And several members heard "Voting Rights Today" at the Women's History Luncheon March 11.

This was followed by two candidate debates on March 12 and on March 19 with many member volun-

teers participating. Then on April 4th Election Day many members took turns being poll watchers at all our local polling sites. Meanwhile the Climate Change Interest group continues to meet monthly at Starbucks!

You will want to mark two very exciting May events on your calendars. Our "Hot Topic" evening with Trevor Potter comes first on Thursday, May 11th. Read the more detailed article about this program in this newsletter and watch for your postcard invitation.

The second exciting date Saturday, May 20 at Gorton Community Center. The program titled *Your Child's Health: The Impact*

of Climate Change, Health Care and Gun Safety promises to be very informative. Read more about this program in this newsletter [see below] and look for future publicity. Finally, don't forget that our Annual Meeting and dinner will be held Wednesday, June 7 at the home of Laurie Rose. Watch for your annual meeting packet for the details.

Thanks for all the wonderful work of our committees and members. We are truly making "Democracy Work!"

—Wyn Cain

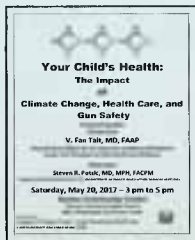


Climate Change, Gun Safety and Children's Health

Calling all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and community members who care about the health and development of our children!

Join us on May 20, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Gorton Community Center for *Your Child's Health: The Impact of Climate Change, Health Care and Gun Safety* with V. Fan Tait, MD FAAP, Chief Medical Officer for the American Academy of Pediatrics and Senior Vice-President Child Health and Wellness.

Dr. Tait, a pediatrician with public policy expertise, will educate and



inform participants as to current scientific findings, how they inform public policy, and how they impact on the health and development of children.

The program will be moderated by League Treasurer Steven R. Potsic, MD, MPH, FACPM, Regional Health Administrator, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (retired).

The program is complimentary and open to the public. Bring your friends, family and guests!

—Joy Guscott-Mueller
Co-Vice President of Program

"Know Your Government" Awards

Each year, our local League presents a "Know Your Government Award" to eighth grade students in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff who have been selected by their teachers, based on their performance in the 8th Grade Civics Curriculum.

Winning students will have demonstrated excellent understanding of the democratic process both in the classroom and by their high scores on State and Federal Constitution tests.

This year the award will be presented by Co-Vice President of Program, Joy Guscott-Mueller, on behalf of the League, on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at 2:45 p.m. at Deer Path Middle School in the Auditorium.

Lake Bluff Middle School award recipients will be recognized at the Award Assembly held at the school on June 8 at 3:45.

Award winners receive a certificate

of recognition from the League and have their names added to a plaque which remains at the school.

—Joy Guscott-Mueller
Co-Vice President of Program

Award

Know Your Government

LWW-LF/LB



A Poll Watcher's Report on the April 4th Election

Twenty-two precincts were covered by the LWF Poll Watcher Corps, from the 6 a.m. opening through the 7 p.m. closing. The training, so ably provided by David Mueller and Joy Guscott-Mueller, focused on election law. The goal, inspired by early voting difficulties, was to be vigilant if the election judges unnecessarily required a provisional ballot.

Ann Hamlin says her election judges at the Knollwood Fire Station were "persnickety." The voting process she observed was "well-organized, and all were well-trained." Except for keeping an eye on the "100 feet no campaigning zone" at her polling site, Ann's day was uneventful. She commented that the mostly-older election judges benefited from the skills of much-younger fellow judge, a high school student.

Ann Grant enjoyed her time at Union Church. She has previously worked as an election judge and gave up that onerous 16-hour job recently. Ann remembers manually counting the ballots and then hand-delivering them to the county offices. Ann feels

it is essential to have observers who are not paid by the county clerk be present to evaluate the workers' performance on election day. And that's the poll watchers' job: To ensure a fair and honest election.

Ann says the site supervisor at her polling place was "an excellent problem solver". Steve Potsic also complimented the Union Church team, saying they kept an eye on the door and accommodated anyone wanting curbside service when the elevator balked. And Steve happily reports watching several instances of same-day voter registration.

While most of us observed minor glitches that were resolved equably, Linda Hinde's assignment landed her in a dysfunctional polling place, a train station. When shuttle busses arrived, the riders waited for their trains in the lobby—right in the middle of the polling place. "Several people got their ballots and left with them when the train arrived!"

Another concern was the candidate who camped out with noisy supporters in the cafe seating in the lobby.

When their presence was challenged by Linda, they secured poll watcher credentials for all. A candidate's misbehavior is a disquieting problem, but the poll watcher's job is to flag inept behavior so an official can take action. Linda concludes this train station is a lousy choice for a polling place!

For my part, my poll watching experience was brief. Our most entertaining moment came when a man brought in his mail-in ballot to vote. He was told to mail it or give it up and vote in-person, which he refused to do. It turns out he wanted to put his mail-in choices on his same-day ballot; so, my site supervisor walked along with him while he voted.

Thanks to all our poll watchers:

Wyn Cain; Happie Datt, Ann Grant, Ann Hamlin, Lyn Gaffigan, Edie Rasmussen Ahern, Linda Hinde, Steve Potsic, Anne Sorensen, Dave Mueller, Joy Guscott-Mueller, Bev Nelson, Sophie Twitchell, Jean Brown, Carol Russ, Carol Gayle, Peg Determan and Sue Kitzerow

—Carol Russ

Drinks & Discussion - Climate Change Interest Group

Please join us for our monthly Drinks and Discussion Climate Change Interest Group on Thursday, May 25, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Starbucks on Western Avenue in Lake Forest. Since the last newsletter, the group has met monthly at Starbucks. It continues to attract members, with as many as 18 attending. We need a larger venue!

Our discussions have included the drastic cuts proposed by the current administration to funding for Great Lakes preservation and the EPA. Melanie Rummel shared information on legislation relating to land trusts that would impact Open Lands. David Mueller shared information on state legislation passed and

signed into law in January related to lead testing and ensuring water quality in schools and other public buildings.

The group also made plans to attend the Chicago marches on April 22 for Science and on April 29 for Climate Change, and brain-stormed

possible action relating to recycling and the Lake Forest Sustainability Plan, and other related events in the area. Sharon Borg and Marge Burda attended the Climate Change March on April 29, as did group member and LFHS science teacher Mary Beth Nawor and several LFHS students.

Our group brainstormed and discusses ideas for local and national action items. Join the May discussion, hear about climate change developments, and participate in resulting initiatives! We look forward to seeing you!

For information, please contact Joy Guscott-Mueller, Sharon Borg, or Carol Gayle, Co-Vice Presidents of Program.

—Joy Guscott-Mueller



Locally Contested Candidate Debates March 12 & 19

For almost 100 years, across the country, at every level of government, League of Women Voters chapters have been hosting candidate debates. The League of Women Voters (LWV) seeks to educate voters on issues at stake in elections. While practical limitations of time restrict voters' abilities to ask every question, LWV debates offer voters the opportunity to observe candidates' styles, preparedness, and knowledge of the issues.

During the most recent election cycle, the League of Women Voters Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area (LWV-LF/LB) sponsored two sets of debates for contested local races in the April 4th Consolidated Election. The first set was held Sunday, March 12th at the Lake Forest High School auditorium, with more than 250 people attending. The debates were for three races: Lake Forest 2nd Ward Alderman; District 67 School Board; and District 115 School Board.

The District 115 debate drew the greatest attention and featured seven

candidates, out of a total of eight on the ballot, vying for four positions. At District 67, five candidates sought four positions. The 2nd Ward Alderman contest featured our own member Melanie Rummel against Paul Hamann.

The March 12 debates were part of hotly contested school board races, particularly in District 115. LWV-LF/LB encountered resistance to participation from the self-styled "Final Four" candidates in the District 115 race, who presented a lengthy list of concerns and complaints about League process and impartiality.

In particular, the "Final Four" demanded that they approve the moderator or that the League use multiple moderators. Additionally, they demanded that participants be forced to show identification in order to observe the debates and that police be present during the debate.

Terry Desmond, V.P. Voter Services, and Wyn Cain, President, responded in accordance with guidelines set forth by the national LWV

and refused to alter our well-established standards. Our national LWV opposes voter ID laws, and LWV-LF/LB felt a requirement of identification to attend a debate was inconsistent with national policy. Likewise, League policy requires independent and previously trained moderators, not of the candidates' choosing.

In the end, three of the "Final Four" candidates participated, and the local community benefitted from observing the candidates in a public setting and learning the candidates' positions on school governance. While no process will be universally acceptable to everyone, the League follows the debate format and guidelines put in place by our national and state Leagues.

The following Sunday, on March 19, the League held a second debate covering three contested races in Lake Bluff. According to press coverage by the Lake Forest Leader, the "debate" was a "friendly conversation" between candidates seeking service on Lake Bluff's Board of Trustees, Village Clerk, and Shields Township Supervisor.

LWV-LF/LB thanks its many members who volunteered to make these debates successful. In addition, we also thank the willingness of our hosts, Lake Forest High School and Lake Bluff Recreation Department, to welcome the community to hear these important issues debated.

—Peg Determan



Welcome New Members!

2017 has brought a bounty of new members and some returning ones to our League: Bev Adamczyk, Meg Barnhart, Pat Carey, Anne Durot, Nancy Friedman, Lynn Gaffigan, Chick Hayman, Ed Hayman, Fred Jackson, Amy Knutson-Strack, Nancy Kravcisin-McClain, Jack Meierhoff, Susan Minorini, Christine Moses, Catherine Richmond, Valerie

Steiner, Michelle Walter, John Wasik and Emily Watts. Thank you all for joining, we look forward to seeing you often at programs and gatherings.

—Marilyn Turchi

Vice-President, Membership

(Right) Three of our newer League members: new Board Secretary Marge Burda, Lois Nicol, and Karyn Szarfarski



April 10, 2017 Fiscal Policy Forum Recap

Many thanks to all in making our fiscal policy program *Understanding the Ongoing Budget Impasse: Pathways to Resolution* at Gorton Community

Center a success. Despite the rain and other competing activities, this always popular fiscal forum had an excellent turnout.

Scott Drury, Illinois State Representative for the 58th District, and attorney Ralph Martire, Executive Director for the bipartisan Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, discussed the ongoing state budget impasse, its impact, and how or when it might be resolved.

The program was moderated by League member and Past President, Susan Garrett,

former Illinois State Representative for the 59th District and former Illinois State Senator for the 29th District. Susan currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the non-partisan Illinois Campaign for Political Reform.

Many thanks to Scott Drury, Ralph Martire and Susan Garrett for their excellent presentation. Be sure to look for the video of the program and Ralph Martire's informative Power Point presentation on our website.

—Joy Guscott-Mueller
Co-Vice President of Program



Scott Drury, Ralph Martire, Susan Garrett

Photos from Legislative Interviews, et. al.



(L to R) Wyn Guscott, Joy Guscott, John Martire & Scott Drury (Feb. 24, 2017)



Budget Interview (March 10, 2017)
(L to R) Scott Drury, Ralph Martire



March 10, 2017 (March 10, 2017) with
Wyn, Marge Burda, Joyce Foster, Robin Hunsinger



(L to R) Wyn Guscott, Marge Burda, Joyce Foster, Robin Hunsinger, Scott Drury
Wyn Guscott, Marge Burda, Joyce Foster, Robin Hunsinger (March 10, 2017)

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area

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contact@LWV-LFLB.org
www.LWV-LFLB.org

Calendar

- May 11** HOT TOPIC! Trevor Potter "Money in Politics..."
7:30 p.m. Lily Reid Holt Chapel, LF College
- May 20** "Your Child's Health..." Climate Change & Gun Safety
3-5 p.m. Gorton Community Center Auditorium
- Jun 7** Annual Meeting & Dinner
5:30 p.m., home of Laurie Rose
- Jun 9-11** LWVIL Convention,
Hilton Garden Inn, Des Plaines -members welcome!
- Jul 4** Lake Bluff Parade:
LWV-LF/LB members & families invited to march
- Aug 2** Lake Forest Days Parade
LWV-LF/LB members & families invited to march

League of Women Voters Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

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Terry Desmond	V.P. Voter Service
Marilyn Turchi	V.P. Membership
Joy Guscott-Mueller	Co-V.P. Program
Carol Gayle	Co-V.P. Program
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Diane Sanderson	Newsletter Editor
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Nicki Snoblin	Webmaster

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all people. It believes that the rights of all people should be equalized in legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."



LEAGUE LINES

SUMMER 2017

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Inside this issue:

- 1 Fall Kick-Off
Welcome New Members
- 2 President's Letter
Nat'l Voter Regis. Day
Fiscal Forums
- 3 Annual Meeting Report
Climate Change Group
Healthy Child Report
LWVIL Convention
League Impacts!
- 5 (League Impacts, more)
We Love Parades
- 6-8 Our Sponsors- Ad Pages
- 9 Additional Pictures
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The Right to Vote



Elizabeth Stanton called Lucy Stone (1818-1893) the "heart and soul" of the fight for women's rights. A fearless orator, she opposed slavery and lobbied for suffrage. She organized women's conventions. Her writing was widely distributed and influential. Her weekly *Women's Journal* was especially effective. She rejected expected deference to male authority and pay disparities. Education provided her with the voice and authority to promote her causes.

Fall Kick-Off: Honoring Margaret Hart

Shoreacres, with its fantastic view of Lake Michigan, is the perfect setting for

Tickets for raffle baskets will be sold at the door.

Limited seating. Reservations required by September 6. Please contact Linda Bartmes 847-234-7069 or www.lwv-lfllb.org. Shoreacres is located at 1601 Shoreacres Road (off of Sheridan Road) in Lake Bluff.

—Marilyn Turchi



our first gathering this year. Our annual Fall Kick-Off will start promptly at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 10. It's an exquisite location to "Celebrate Civic Engagement" and to honor longtime member Margaret Hart.

Please join us for an afternoon overlooking the lake with veteran and new members alike while we pay tribute to Margaret's many years of dedication to the League and the community. Complimentary light refreshments will be served.

Lake Forest Mayor Robert Lansing and Lake Bluff President Kathleen O'Hara will speak briefly about our towns. The event is free to members and their guests (bring a prospective member!).



Jean Brown and Margaret Hart

Welcome, New Members!

Spring and summer 2017 have continued to bring us new members: Cindy Broten, Marion Cartwright, Ellen Carney Granda, Kerry Kilmer, Julianna Kim, Jessica Morrison, Michael Morrison, Aurie Pennick, Bob Shaw, and Kirsten Stuteville. Thank you all for joining — we look for-

ward to seeing you often at programs and gatherings and getting to know you better.

—Marilyn Turchi



President's Letter

What a pivotal time to be a member of the League of Women Voters! Our League has continued to



Wyn Cain

provide a place to voice your opinion about issues that are important to you. The LWVIL Convention underscored something that we have

nished in our own

League this year: men and women across the county are joining their local Leagues. Indeed, "Democracy is not a spectator sport!"

This summer, our League received

enthusiastic and warm responses by parade crowds in Lake Bluff and Lake Forest. On October 3, our League will co-sponsor with the City of Lake Forest about the impacts of state fiscal policies on local municipalities and school districts. A state budget program with will take place on October 25 with a panel that includes State Senator Julie Morrison. I believe it's important that the League continues to be a non-partisan leader in our communities as we all deal with the issues facing us today.

I hope you will continue to support our local League by attending events, joining activities, and planning programs for the

coming year. Together our voices are stronger! We also have bolstered our



Amy Knutson Strack

communications efforts with Amy Knutson Strack, our new communications / publicity director, coming aboard. She is helping us coordinate our communications teams and as well as our various print and social media campaigns. We are now on Twitter, too! Follow us @LWVofLFLB.

Come, join in, and find your place as we share in the fun and growth of our League!

—Wyn Cain

National Voter Registration Day: September 26

Imagine hundreds of League chapters and thousands of volunteers across the country promoting voter registration all in one day. That's exactly what you will see on Tuesday, September 26: National Voter Registration Day! LWV-LF/LB will work hand-in-hand in our communities on this day to promote voter registration. Already we have amazing support.

The City of Lake Forest and the Village of Lake Bluff are passing resolutions in support of the League's community-wide, voter registration

campaigns. Other organizations and entities are joining our efforts, too, including the Lake Bluff Public Lib-

rary, Lake Forest Library, Dickinson Hall, Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest College, and Shields Township. Volunteers on the Voter Services committee continue to reach out to other potential coalition partners.

If you are a deputy registrar and are available on September 26, please contact Mary Mathews. If you would like to be trained to register citizens to vote, also contact Mary.

Watch for more information in our member emails, our website www.lwv-lflb.org, and on Facebook.

—Mary Mathews



Save the Date: Two Fiscal Policy Forums!

A Fiscal Stress Test: Our League is pleased to co-sponsor "A Fiscal Stress Test: How the State's Decisions Impact the City and Schools of Lake Forest" with the City of Lake Forest and its School Districts 67 and 115.

On Tuesday, October 3, at 7 p.m., Mayor Rob Lansing (LF), and School Board Presidents Mike Borkowski (67) and Reese Marcusson (115) will discuss the impact of the Illinois budget on city and school finances at the

Gorton Community Center in Lake Forest.

Beyond the State Budget Impasse: The second forum will take place Wednesday, October 25, at 7 p.m. in Lake Forest, location to be announced. Speakers include State Senator Julie Morrison, Civic Federation President Laurence Msall, and John Bouman, president of the Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. The event is free and open to the

public. This program is a continuation of our ongoing series addressing Illinois state fiscal policy. Our previous program featured State Representative Scott Drury and Ralph Martire, Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability discussing the state budget impasse. The video is available on our website. We hope to see you in October at these timely and important forums.

Annual Meeting Report

The spacious Lake Forest home of Laurie Rose set the stage for our annual meeting in June. A large group of our League members gathered in three lovely dining areas to enjoy a delicious dinner. Our gracious hostess provided the cake decorated with the American flag. Committee members Emily Watts,

Lois Nicol, and Susan Minorini greeted members with additional help by Marilyn Turchi, Linda Bartmes, and Sharon Borg.

After dinner, Wyn Cain, president, presided over the business meeting. Members voted to retain our current positions on solid waste, comprehensive plan, conservation,

and nominating systems and procedures. Members also voted to pass a number of action items, including gun violence prevention, health care, climate change, voting rights, fiscal policy and tax reform (incorporating funding public education and social services). New officers were elected for 2017-2018.



More
Annual
Meeting
photos
on
page 9!



Climate Change Group

Interested in climate change and environmental issues? Do you have ideas and questions about how to make a difference in your world? Join the Climate Change Group! Unless otherwise noted, the group meets the fourth Thursday each month at Starbucks (672 N. Western Ave., Lake Forest) from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Our next meeting on September 28 will take place at Lifeworking/Co-working Space (717 Forest Avenue, 2nd floor, elevator available) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Our guest speaker is Walter Willis, executive director of

SWALCO (Solid Waste Management Agency of Lake County).

Members of our Climate Change Group are gathering information about the use of coal tar on local



highway as

man nearby communities have already instituted either coal tar bans or restrictions. Marge Burda and David Mueller head up a committee regarding this issue with the goal of making a presentation to the Lake Forest City Council.

Anne Sorensen regularly updates the group about the Lake Bluff Sustainability and Enhancement Committee and its research and initiatives regarding backyard chickens and beekeeping.

If these or any climate or environmental issues are of concern, the group welcomes you to drop by at the regular meetings or contact Joy Guscott-Mueller, Sharon Borg, or Carol Gayle for further information.

—Sharon Borg



Your Healthy Child- Program Report

In partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), our local League hosted a public program at the Gorton Community Center (Lake Forest) in May entitled, "Your Child's Health: The Impact of Climate Change, Health Care, and Gun Safety." Anne Edwards, MD, FAAP, senior vice president, primary care and subspecialty pediatrics for the AAP, presented excellent statistical

analysis, how data inform public policy, and how this impacts the health and development of children.

League Treasurer Steven R. Potsic, MD, MPH, FACPM, regional health administrator, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (retired), expertly moderated the program. He also shared good information with our distinguished speaker to make it an enriching program for our guests.

The program demonstrated the need for advocacy in these key areas to protect the health and well-being of children. Many thanks to Steve and the many volunteers who helped make the program a success!

The presentation, as well as Dr. Edwards' PowerPoint presentation, is available on our website at lvw-llb.org. Share with your friends!

—Joy Guscott-Mueller

LWVIL 58th Biennium State Convention Report

The League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area sent five delegates to the Illinois State Convention in June: Mary Mathews, Cindy Morehead, Beth Berg, Marge Burda, and Wyn Cain.

Our delegates attended a variety of pre-convention workshops, including environmental justice; effectively using social media; discussing controversial topics; engaging new members; developing leaders; advocacy through alliances and collaboration; and government accountability.

During the meetings, members al-

ligned a number of advocacy issues and positions. Members requested an advocacy letter be sent to Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner regarding the lack of a state budget. LWVIL recommended that the Abolition of the Electoral College position be put to a vote at the LWVUS convention next year. Workshops stressed the value of working with coalition partners, as demonstrated by the state and national Leagues.

The new board for 2017-2019 is

Bonnie Cox, president; Sharon Allen, Mary Deak, Jean Farrow, and Erin

Roeper, vice presidents; Olemuel Ashford, treasurer; and Corinne Joyner, secretary. The PMP for LWVIL was raised to \$32 and will take effect in 2018-19.

Both President Cox and Wylecia Harris, LWVUS CEO, spoke and inspired the attendees. President Cox called for more publicity efforts and encouraged League to share our efforts and success and pursue more partnerships. Diversity continues to be a goal of all of the Leagues.

—Marge Burda



League Impacts! More to Do!

Wow! This past year the League has been successful at every level: local, county, state and national. A summary for our local chapter was in the annual meeting report and can be found on our website under the library tab. But, you ask, "What did our other chapters accomplish?" Much!

LWV of Lake County: Last year, LWV of Lake County (LWV-LC) covered a lot of ground. Its eight sets of candidate debates included races for the 10th congressional, state senate, state representative, county, school board, mayor, trustees, and other local offices in various communities across Lake County. Members also or-

ganized a popular high school mock election and managed five busy voter registration drives at high schools and libraries before the 2016 election.

In addition, members of LWV-LC conducted legislative interviews with State Senator Terry Link, State Senator Melinda Bush, and State Representative Sam Yingling. We partnered with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to offer two well-attended public workshops for the "ON TO 2050" regional comprehensive plan. The event in Waukegan was bilingual, as well.

Another significant event educated the public about how Lake County addresses mental health issues in the

court system, which is nationally recognized for its innovative solutions. We hosted "Exploring Options to the Criminal Justice System" in Bannockburn with speakers from four different Lake County departments.

Ongoing projects for LWV-LC include the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System with Lurie Hospital, Des Plaines River Watershed Planning Group, Clean Power Lake County, the Citizens' Advisory Group of Waukegan Harbor, and an active observer corps of the Lake County Board. There is always something happening with LWV-LC!

LEAGUE IMPACTS: Page 5

LEAGUE IMPACTS from page 4

LWV of Illinois: The state League led on many fronts this year, with impacts felt in a number of areas. LWVIL sent out more than 30 "Time for Action" emails asking for grassroots action to contact state officials. These included calls to pass a budget, license gun dealers, approve automatic voter registration, pass the Equal Rights Amendment, as well as other issues. The state League also continued its ongoing fight for redistricting reform.

In addition to their active advocacy calendar, LWVIL held five televised candidate debates. The state League established an ad hoc committee to determine the best way for local Leagues to work toward consolidation of governmental entities and services. LWV Illinois ended the year with an exciting convention and the election of a new activist president: Bonnie Cox. Delegates voted for a two-year jam-packed program that

will provide opportunities for local involvement. A significant project over the next two years will be to plan the 2018 LWVUS convention in Chicago to kick off the League's 100th Anniversary celebration. Now that is a big deal!

LWV of the United States: The national office was replete with activity, especially after the 2016 election. Campaign finance reform, voting rights, and climate change were primary concerns; through advocacy, grassroots organizing, legal action, and public education, the League tackled these issues and more.

LWVUS reached out to thousands of citizen activists. More than 12,000 League supporters responded to an Action Alert about the "Election Integrity" Commission, which the League opposes. Working in coalition with environmental groups, the League garnered more than 100,000 public comments addressed to the

EPA regarding carbon pollution from power plants.

LWVUS also mobilized grassroots members to protect the Affordable Care Act and fight for access to affordable healthcare for millions of Americans. Through a website, the League provided millions of voters across the country with essential information about the election process in each state and appropriate ballot information.

The League has not been afraid to take on battles in court, joining cases involving climate change, voter suppression, and gerrymandering. There have been wins, but many challenges lie ahead.

This is just a small inventory of what your dues supported and helped others carry out throughout the state and nation this year. Your continued interest, involvement, and support is crucial.

—Mary Mathews

We Love Parades!

There's nothing like a parade to bring out spirited League members. This year we were well-represented in both the Lake Bluff Fourth of July parade and the Lake Forest Day Parade in early August. We earned second-place honors in both!

With Lake Bluff's theme "Honoring Our Heroes," League members

Marilyn Turchi, Happie Datt, Beth Berg, Wyn Cain, Jim Borg, and Sharon Borg carried signs honoring first responders and armed forces. Teen and soon-to-be League member Maddie Wasser drove a beautifully decorated Jeep.

On Lake Forest Day, Carol Russ drove her decorated convertible, as

Wyn, Sharon, Beth, Marilyn, Robin Huszagh, and Ann Grant paid tribute to both the Market Square Renovation and Openlands. They carried the League banner and responded to enthusiastic crowds lining the parade route. Our inflated "Uncle Sam," hitched a ride in all of the parades!

—Sharon Borg



More
parade
photos
on
page 9!



League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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Calendar

- Sep 10** Fall Kick-Off honoring Margaret Hart. 1-3 p.m.
Shoreacres, 1601 Shoreacres Rd, Lk Bluff.
Reservations required.
- Sep 26** National Voter Registration Day
- Sep 28** Climate Change Interest Group: Guest Speaker Walter
Willis (SWALCO). 5:30-6:30 p.m. Lifeworking/
Coworking Space (717 Forest Avenue, Lake Forest)
- Oct 3** "A Fiscal Stress Test: How the State's Decisions
Impact the City and Schools of Lake Forest."
7-8:30 p.m. Gorton Community Center
400 E Illinois Rd, Lake Forest
- Oct 25** "Beyond the State Budget Impasse." Speakers
Julie Morrison, Laurence Msall, John Bouman. 7 p.m.
Location TBA
- Oct 26** Climate Change Interest Group: Drinks & Discussion.
5:30-6:30 p.m. Starbucks (672 N Western Ave,
Lake Forest)
- Dec 8** Holiday Party, Location TBA.

"The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."

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Marilyn Turchi	V.P. Membership
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Carol Gayle	Co-V.P. Program
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David Mueller	LWV-LMR Liaison
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Amy Knutson Strack	Communications/Publicity
John Wasik	LWV-UMRR Liaison

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President's Letter

It's an exciting time of year: candidate debate and program planning time!

The League is known for offering candidates a place to share their views on issues and the voters a chance to question the candidates in a moderated forum. Come to the congressional and county

congressional and county

League in action!

Then be sure to join our Program Planning meeting on February 20. Your views and interests matter to decide which issues the League will focus on next year. We will also discuss the ERA and Electoral College issues at the national level. Please RSVP to Linda Bartmes to save a seat at this important dinner meeting.

As you read through the newsletter, note how our League continues to grow in members, activities, and supporters. Your board welcomes your input and offers to help match your interests with committee activities. Call any board member to find when and how you may contribute to this organization. We welcome your active participation.

Enjoy reading what the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area has been doing these past few months! We're proud of our accomplishments! Thank you Members!



Wyn Cain



League members learn about city and county governments from Lake Forest City Alderwomen Melanie Rummel and Lake County Board Member and former Lake Forest Mayor Mike Rummel at the home of Wyn Cain. It was a great opportunity for members to ask questions and learn about running for local public office.

Sound Off for Program Planning

Getting a little stir crazy staying inside? We have the solution! Please enjoy Diane Lloyd's warm hospitality and a delicious light dinner while members gather to discuss important national and local issues. This annual Program Planning meeting is

See "Planning," p. 2

The Right to Vote



Rosa Parks (1913-2005) wouldn't let the color of her skin determine whether she could sit. It led to her arrest, the Montgomery bus boycott, and was a catalyst for the Civil Rights movement.

Her advocacy led her to the local NAACP. Rosa's discovery that the local Air Force base was

registered to vote. She became a suffragist for all

achieve equality.

All Out for Voter Services!

During the past several months, the Voter Services committee has been hard at work for the upcoming March 20 primary election with a three-prong approach: debates, voter registration, and GOTV.

Congressional and clerk debates: Members from LWV-LF/LB are teaming

See "Voter Services" p. 2

Planning (Continued from p. 1)

Tuesday, February 20, 4 to 7 p.m. at Diane's home (500 College Road, Lake Forest). Please call Linda Bartmes in advance to make a reservation (847-234-7069). If arriving after work or late, just let Linda know. The discussion-planning meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

We need your feedback: Program planning is an essential League tool to focus and prioritize our work and ensure that League resources are engaged to have the most impact. Every year League members across the country are asked to participate in this formal program planning process, which provides feedback on the League's public policy positions and future advocacy efforts. This

year, national and local positions are discussed; state and local positions are covered in odd years.

In a grassroots organization such as the LWV, all members are invited to play an active role in directing and participating in the work. The annual program planning meeting on February 20 enables our members the opportunity to have a voice where League advocacy priorities should be for the next two years at the national level, as well as the next year for local action.

We will review our four local positions found in the membership directory and discuss which are important in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff to recommend as "Action Foci."

As resources (time, energy, interest, funds) are limited, we need to determine priorities. Some questions to consider as to what will make an impact in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff:

- Is there widespread member interest?

- Is this a timely issue?

- Is local government action the most effective way to address the problem?

- Is League involvement likely to make an impact?

- Is there an existing national, state, county, or local position that can be used as a basis for action?

Please join fellow League members for riveting conversations, decision-making, and a delicious supper!

Voter Services (Continued from p. 1)

up with members from sister chapters in Deerfield and Highland Park/Highwood for a set of stimulating debates on Sunday, February 18.

Three Republican candidates for the 10th Congressional District and two Democratic candidates for Lake County Clerk will participate from these two hotly contested races.

Whoever wins the primary will take on the incumbents, Congressman Brad Schneider (D) and Lake County Clerk Carla Wyckoff (R), in the November general election.

As the three Republican congressional candidates have never held public office, their answers to audience questions will play a major role in helping voters decide their candidate in November. Douglas R. Bennett (Deerfield), Sapan Shah (Libertyville), and Jeremy Wynes (Highland Park) have widely differing backgrounds, positions, and priorities.

Controversial areas on which the candidates may not agree include infrastructure, Israel, healthcare, tort reform, spending, and the travel ban.

One has signed Grover Norquist's Americans for Tax Reform pledge, while another one is pro-choice. There are differences of opinions among these candidates.

The two Democratic candidates for Lake County Clerk, Adam R. Broad (Buffalo Grove) and Robin M. O'Connor (Libertyville), have been active in politics for many years. However, they do differ in their approaches to improve the Clerk's office, and this could be important to residents when they vote.

League members will want to attend and ask their questions. Our cosponsor, the North Shore Unitarian Church (2100 Half Day Road, Bannockburn), is hosting the event. The debate starts at 2 p.m.; doors open at 1:30 p.m. There is plenty of parking.

Voter registration: On our voter registration front, League members continue to express interest in becoming deputy voter registrars. There were only two training classes this winter, but more will be scheduled later in the year. We have quite a few registrars now and are

able to help other organizations when they ask.

We also are proud of our "Primo Traveling Registrar" Ann Grant, who carries registration forms with her at all times, and immediately can help interested people throughout Illinois!

Get Out The Vote: Finally, we have started our Get Out The Vote (GOTV) outreach to encourage voting by using Facebook and print campaigns. We will also promote LWVIL's voter guide. Either click on the "Voter Guide" button on the LWVIL website (lwvil.org) or go directly to lwvil.civiceengine.com. LWVIL has partnered with The University of Chicago Institute of Politics to make it easy for voters to research candidates and referendums in the state.

If you have any questions or want to be involved in our voter services portfolio, please contact Mary Mathews or one of our committee members: Beth Berg, Peg Determan, Ann Grant, Robin Huszagh, Laurie Rose, Wyn Cain, and Amy Knutson Strack.

—Mary Mathews

Holiday Luncheon Delights

The annual holiday luncheon was held December 8th at Froggy's in Elmhurst. As always, the food was delicious and the company great! Barry Bradford offered an entertaining presentation, "The History of Satire in America."

Carrie Catt Chapman Award: During the luncheon, Cindy Morehead received this year's Carrie Catt Chapman Award, which she greatly deserved. During active and challenging times, she has seen it all



Cindy Morehead

with a variety of contributions. Her thoughtful deliberation, experience, generosity, and graciousness are valued highly by League members.

Cindy served on the board for 14



L to R: Linda Bartmes, Barry Bradford, Marilyn Turchi, Wyn Cain

years, first in 1995 as program chair. She rejoined and planned many popular program activities from 2002 to 2005 with Sally Zeit and from 2010 to 2012 with Lisa Dietrich.

In 2008, responding to the request from LWVIL and fellow members, Cindy assumed the role of co-president with Lisa. In her quiet and efficient manner, she stabilized the League and guided it through a period of changes.

A major impact she spearheaded was our first local foray into the LWVIL redistricting efforts. She guided League members to gather signatures for the Fair Map Amendment; under her leadership, LWV-LF/LB received hundreds of

signatures during the project.

Cindy also served as treasurer (2006-2008), secretary (2012-2014), at-large director (2015-2016) and chair of the nominating committee (2016-2017).

Cindy continues to volunteer as deputy registrar as well as at parades, conventions, fundraising events, AAUW programming, candidate debates, and the Great Decisions program. Cindy most recently accepted on behalf of the League the Village of Lake Bluff's Proclamation supporting National Voter Registration Day.

—Linda Bartmes and Mary Mathews

Welcome New and Returning Members!

We are happy to add new members to our League: Maria Pasquesi (Deerfield); Mary Beth Nawor (Highland Park); Liz Dorney-Wilcox and Jacqueline P. Johnson (Lake Bluff); Jo Ann Desmond (Lake Forest); and Dr. Karen Carlson (Waukegan). Mary Ritter (Lake Forest) has rejoined our ranks.

Also, three high school students joined our organization: Kelsey Marx, Julia Wasik, and Maddie Wassner.

Thank you all for joining! We look forward to seeing you at programs and events — invite your friends and introduce them to League. Welcome!

**Thank you to our
generous supporters:**

**Froggy's French Cafe
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Making Democracy Work: Gerrymandering Program a Great Success!

A standing-room-only crowd filled the Gorton Center on a wintery night for a panel discussion, "Making Democracy Work: Gerrymandering and Its Impact on Public Policy," on January 24. The Adlai Stevenson Center on Democracy cosponsored the event.

The distinguished panel of Nicholas Stephanopoulos (professor, University of Chicago law); Lori Lightfoot (partner, Mayer Brown); and state Rep. Scott Drury presented an engaging and educational program about hyperpartisan gerrymandering and its effect on public policy. Their collective expertise demonstrated that fair maps are essential to protect voting rights.

Stephanopoulos discussed the "Efficiency Gap" formula, which he co-developed, that quantitatively measures the effect of gerrymandering and calculates wasted votes. He offered a number of national court cases in his presentation, including *Gill v. Whitford* that the Supreme Court is expected to rule on later this spring.

He discussed several examples of what makes a case for gerrymandering — the intent — as well as how a typically "purple" state like Wisconsin becomes "ruby red" in its policies.

Stephanopoulos also represented the LWV in a partisan gerrymandering case in North Carolina in which a panel of judges



L. to R.: Nicholas Stephanopoulos, Lori Lightfoot, Scott Drury, Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller

held in January that state legislature maps drawn were gerrymandered in a partisan manner and ordered them redrawn. Stephanopoulos truly provided an insider perspective on the impact of gerrymandering litigation.

Lightfoot discussed her role and hands-on experience with gerrymandering as counsel to the Independent Maps Coalition, including background in the last attempt for a constitutional amendment. She also described how districts are drawn in Illinois to protect legislators so they don't have to compromise, thus ignoring the will

of the people.

Drury discussed his role as one of two Democratic state legislators to join 15 Republican state

legislators from Illinois in submitting an amicus brief in *Gill v. Whitford* and why he made the decision to do so. He also discussed how partisan gerrymandering impacts the legislative process, drawn from his experience as a state representative from the 58th district.

Wyn Cain and Nancy Stevenson (president, Adlai Stevenson Center on Democracy) opened the event, and Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller served as moderator, including navigating a robust and informative question-and-answer session from the audience.

Many thanks to our outstanding speakers, cosponsor, and League volunteers, including Sharon Borg and Carol Gayle (co-vice presidents of program), for contributing to the success of this event.

A video of the program is available on YouTube, accessible from our website.

—Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller

Political and racial gerrymandering distorts and undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters to elect their officials. When done for purposes of racial discrimination or to ensure the dominance of one political party, gerrymandering runs counter to equal voting rights for all eligible voters.

LWVUS Making Democracy Work: Redistricting

LWV of Lake County Activities

Wonderful news! We kick off 2018 celebrating the leadership and work of two LWV-LC members!

MaryFran Troha: Waukegan Township recognized MaryFran Troha with the 2018 Drum Major



Honoree award at its annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dreamers' Breakfast on Jan. 15. More than 500 people attended the celebration. MaryFran was recognized for her leadership efforts in Waukegan and many activities through the League of

Women Voters of Lake County. We are very proud of MaryFran receiving this well-deserved Drum Major award that recognizes she is out in front serving others.

Aurie Pennick: Lake County Women's Coalition will honor Aurie Pennick at its annual Women's History Month Luncheon on Saturday, March 3 at Midlane Country Club in Wadsworth. This year's theme, "Women Empowering Women, Fighting All Forms of Discrimination," aptly describes much of Aurie's distinguished career over the years. Aurie dedicates herself to serve "as an advocate for marginalized people, those whose voices are too often drowned out and ignored." Aurie's ideas, experience, and energy inspire us.

MaryFran and Aurie recently worked together with other organizations to present a very successful tax program with Ralph Martire in Waukegan. It was recorded



Aurie Pennick

on Facebook live and shared with many groups. Plans are underway for another public event — stay tuned!

Focus on Lake County: As we work at the county level of government, we have a potpourri of issues to tackle spanning a diverse

jurisdiction. Currently members are addressing air and water pollution, violence and violent death, redistricting, consolidation, immigration, criminal justice, regional planning, and the ERA.

We also fit in standard League activities, such as voter registration, candidate debates, and observing public meetings. All local League members are automatically members in LWV-LC and are invited to take action throughout Lake County. Contact Jane Partridge or Linda Bartmes for more information.

—Mary Mathews

Climate Change Interest Group: Looking Forward to Spring and Earth Day!

The Climate Change Interest group continues to meet each month with much success. We have a bright start for 2018: Group member David Mueller has been appointed by the LWV of Illinois to serve on the LWV of Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR) board of directors beginning in 2018.

LWVLMR advocates for conservation and preservation of Lake Michigan waters, an issue near and dear to the interest group.

The group is also looking forward to Earth Day and is in the process of developing initiatives related to events in our respective communities. So far,

many terrific ideas have emerged. Join the next meeting to continue the discussion and planning!

Autumn recap: In November, Carol Gayle and Sharon Borg facilitated a lively conversation about developments in national climate change policies, as well as brainstormed ideas regarding local action items. These include coal tar sealant issues (Marge Burda/David Mueller) and food scrap composting/recycling issues (Ann Grant/Lois Nichol).

Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller facilitated the January meeting. Ann

Grant and Lois Nichol updated the group on their meeting with the village administrator in Lake Bluff regarding food scrap composting/recycling issues.

The group plans to explore if it can help bring food scrap composting and textile recycling to Lake Forest.

The group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Starbucks in Lake Forest (672 North Western Avenue).

—Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller

Women's March

"Be in the room where it happens!" Team LWV-LF/LB joined local Leagues throughout the Chicagoland area at this year's Women's March and found camaraderie everywhere—from

Buckingham Fountain to Grant Park to Federal Plaza. Our members marched, texted, and Tweeted their support.

In addition, the *Daily Herald* interviewed eight women from local

organizations about why they planned to march, including our own LWV-LF/LB President Wyn Cain (see p. 9, "Bonus Pictures"). What a great highlight for our League!



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Calendar

Feb 18 Candidate Debates (North Shore Unitarian Church, 2100 Half Day Road, Bannockburn)

Feb 20 Program Planning (Home of Diane Lloyd)

Mar 11 Women's History Month Luncheon (Wilmette Park District Golf Club Restaurant, 3900 Fairway Drive, Wilmette)

Mar 20 Primary Election (Vote!)

Reoccurring Meetings

Climate Change Interest Group:
Feb 22, Mar 22, Apr 26, May 24

Great Decisions Foreign Policy Group:
Mar 9, Apr 13, May 11

League of Women Voters Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors

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Mary Mathews	V.P. Voter Service
Marilyn Turchi	V.P. Membership
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Carol Gayle	Co-V.P. Program
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Nicki Snoblin	Web Manager

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that

Inside this issue:

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President's Letter

Spring has brought and continues to bring many activities for the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area!

Your board hopes you have taken advantage of the candidate debates in March; the new Healthcare Interest group meetings; the Earth Day and Environment Activities from the Climate Change Interest

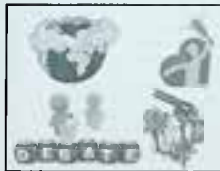
Safety."

On May 19, be sure to attend the Environmental Expo and Climate Change Forum. Tom Skilling (from WGN-TV) returns to lead a panel discussion with Mary Gade (Gade Environmental Group, LLC.) and Donald J. Wuebbles, Ph.D. (University of Illinois) about climate change policy and the environment. Before and after the forum, Lake Forest High School students will have their environment projects on display, as well as projects from area organizations. This community-wide event is not to be missed!

Then on June 13, we will all gather at League member Kitty Cole's Lake Forest home for our Annual Meeting. This annual membership dinner and meeting culminates our year's activities and is when we set forth plans for the coming year.



Wyn Cain



group; and Rep. Brad Schneider's talk May 2 "Money in Politics: Impact on Gun

See "President's Letter" p. 2

The Right to Vote



Ellen Martin (1847-1916) resided in Lombard at a time when Illinois towns could write "private laws." Most of these charters were specifically "male only" when it came to the right to vote. Ms. Martin discovered that Lombard's charter allowed all citizens over age 21 to vote. Armed with her law book, she and fourteen other female citizens arrived at the polling place and demanded the right to vote. The judges ultimately agreed and on April 6, 1891, fifteen female votes were cast—the first for Illinois.

Tom Skilling Returns, Plus an Environmental Expo!

An afternoon panel with WGN-TV's Chief Meteorologist Tom Skilling — combined with an environmental expo led by local organizations and high school students — is a sure-fire way to bring together a community about climate change.

We are delighted to cosponsor with Lake Forest High School, "Developments in Climate Change Science and Policy: Obstacles and Opportunities," on Saturday, May 19, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Lake Forest High School (Auditorium, 1285 N. McKinley Rd., Lake Forest). The event is free and open to the public.

Joining Skilling on the panel will be attorney Mary Gade (Gade Environmental Group, LLC.) and Donald J. Wuebbles, Ph.D.

See "Skillings & Expo" p. 2



Skilling & Expo (Continued from p. 1)

(University of Illinois). Gade is a former regional administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Wuebbles is a professor of atmospheric science and presidential fellow. He is also the former assistant director with the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the Executive Office of the President (Washington, D.C.).

Together the panel will discuss recent developments in climate change science, policies, and strategies for the future.

A new environmental expo will take place before the forum with projects developed by students and community organizations. The expo

opens at 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium foyer and will remain open at the close of the forum until 6:30 p.m. Organizations taking part in the expo include:

- LFHS Environmental Club
- LFHS Human Rights Club
- LFHS Library
- LWV-LF/LB
- Lake Forest Public Library
- Lake Forest Open Lands

Association

- Lake Bluff Open Lands

Association

- The Center for Conservation

Leadership

- Rotary International, Lake Forest Chapter

- Green Minds
- Citizens for Action

We are excited to partner with Lake Forest High School for this educational event, bringing students and community members together for this day. Invite your friends and family!

—Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller



President's Letter (Continued from p. 1)

Look for the packet and invitation to arrive in your mail soon with further details.

All-important this year is the League of Women Voters' 53rd National Convention to be held in Chicago on Thursday, June 28, through Sunday, July 1. The convention will be at the Hilton Chicago (720 South Michigan Ave., Chicago). To register, visit

forum.lwv.org for program and registration forms. This is a great way to learn more about the League!

Finally, mark your calendars now for the July 4 Lake Bluff parade and the Lake Forest Day Parade on August 1. We will be marching again — family and friends are welcome to join us! It's a perfect way to spend a summer day!

—Wyn Cain

Annual Meeting: Come One! Come All!

Get acquainted with new members and catch up with your League colleagues while we gather for the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 13, at 5 p.m. Enjoy wonderful food from Fresh Market in the good company of friends at the beautiful home of Kitty Cole.

The Annual Meeting packet with

details about next year's program, bylaws, budget, and nominees for offices will be mailed to members in mid-May. Please bring this packet with you to the meeting where we will discuss these items and vote.

RSVP by June 1 to Linda Bartmes (bartmes@bcglobal.net or 847-234-7069). Cost per person is \$25. Please



send checks directly to LWV-LF/LB (P.O. Box 645, Lake Forest, IL 60045). See you there!

—Linda Bartmes and Marilyn Turchi

Welcome New Members!

Spring is the time for new growth, and our League continues to grow in numbers.

We are pleased to add these new

members to our roster: Nancy W. Cook (Libertyville), Kathryn C. Gilbertson and Linda Remensnyder (Lake Forest), and Sandra Washburn

(Mundelein). Thank you all for joining! We look forward to seeing you at programs and events.

—Marilyn Turchi

Poll Watchers Team Up for Primaries

Poll watchers from LWV-LF/LB were out in force for the March primary election. Under state law, the League is one of a class of organizations permitted to obtain poll-watching credentials and training. David Mueller trained LWV-LF/LB volunteers about poll-watching roles and responsibilities, as well as common voting issues and problems.

Volunteer poll watchers assigned to Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood voting sites observed the election process, documented problems, and provided non-partisan information to voters. Many thanks to our

volunteers Happy Datt, Jean Brown, Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller, Carol Gayle, Carol Russ, Lynn Gaffigan, Sharon Borg, and David Mueller.

This effort — to provide a non-partisan poll-watching presence of our election process — is a continuation of an effort that began last year. Our poll watchers look for voting equipment malfunctions, election judge staffing and training irregularities, electioneering, and ensure that vulnerable classes of voters do not receive additional scrutiny or impediments to the voting process. Our

trained poll watchers work with voters, the election judges, and the Lake County clerk's office to address any issues.

The LWV-LF/LB poll watchers will be at sites in November, and we will need volunteers to provide coverage for all voting precincts on Election Day. These enthusiastic "Voter Protection" volunteers play a critical role to ensure access to the polls and election integrity. Please contact David Mueller (dmueller@guscottmuellerlaw.com) to sign up for November!

—David Mueller

Climate Change Interest Group

The Climate Change Interest "Drinks and Discussion" Group continues to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at Starbucks on Western Avenue in Lake Forest. In February and March, Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller facilitated the meetings to discuss developments in nationwide climate change policies, as well as brainstorm local action plans.

Forum and Expo: The group has been actively engaged in planning the upcoming Climate Change Forum, "Developments in Climate Change Science and Policy: Obstacles and Opportunities," on May 19 featuring WGN-TV Meteorologist Tom Skilling. The group has been instrumental in reaching out to local com-

munity groups to bring a new Environmental Expo to the forum this year, with a successful response from many environmentally focused groups. (See Pages 1 & 2). Interested in volunteering for this exciting event? Please contact Sharon Borg (sborg@comcast.net).

Water Day: David Mueller is an interest group member and also serves as a representative of LWV Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR). He's been able to keep the group up-to-date on a number of issues. A highlight this year is the upcoming LWVLMR Annual Meeting and "Water Day" Symposium that will be held on June 27 (the day before the LWVUS Convention) at the Standard

Club in Chicago. The event will feature a roundup of water advocacy projects from around the country, including a speaker from the US Geological Survey on the "Internet of Water." The evening will close with a dinner and speech by Howard A. Learner (Environmental Law and Policy Center) about the degradation of the environmental protection safety net. All are welcome to register and attend (costs range from \$25 to \$85). Contact David with questions!

The next meetings will be Thursday, May 24, and Thursday, June 28, as the discussion and planning continues! All are welcome!

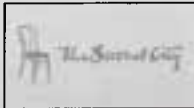
—Elizabeth "Joy" Guscott-Mueller

LWVUS Convention Fundraiser: Second City!

Enjoy an evening of laughter and benefit LWVIL and LWV Chicago at the same time. The LWVUS national convention is in Chicago this year, from June 28 to July 1. As host city and state, we are presenting famed Second City comedy in a special performance. A portion of proceeds will benefit the host Leagues.

Mark your calendar for Friday, June 29, right on the site of the

convention at the Hilton Chicago Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Tickets for yourself and your friends can be ordered via [https://](https://leagueofwomenvoters.ticketleap.com/secondcity/)



leagueofwomenvoters.ticketleap.com/secondcity/.

You do not need to be registered for the Convention to attend this Second City performance.

Please note the \$52 ticket price plus fees has a preconvention purchase deadline of June 25. After that, tickets can only be purchased onsite at convention of ticket price of \$58, plus fees.

Community Forum Provides Railroad Expansion Information

Since the Chicago-Milwaukee Intercity Rail Corridor proposal was first presented more than two years ago, LWV-LF/LB — along with other local Leagues — has been following this proposal and submitted comments to the Federal Railroad Administration asking for more detailed information or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

On April 5, the Lake Forest City Council's Resolution restated and reaffirmed the City of Lake Forest's opposition to the Chicago-Milwaukee Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor proposal and reaffirmed the City's request for an EIS.

Section 4 of the Resolution states: "The City Council is opposed to the Project and to any increased freight traffic on the Metro MD-N Line be-

cause of the City Council's strong belief that it will create unacceptable health, safety and environmental impacts to our community."

Section 5 of the Resolution states: "The Mayor and City Manager are hereby directed to continue working with representatives of the Villages of Glenview, Northbrook, Deerfield, and Bannockburn and with our residents and representatives of ACTION to further explore opportunities to influence WisDOT, IDOT, Amtrak and the FRA and to discourage the construction of this Project or any other project improvements which would negatively impact the health, safety or welfare of our residents."

A Citizens for ACTION group held a community forum April 25 at

Gorton Community Center to further explain the project. LWV-LF/LB, along with Lake Forest Open Lands Association, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Army Corps of Engineers have voiced concerns about the environmental impacts for the entire community, including the Middlefork Savanna, nearby schools, and Lake Forest High School sports fields. Wyn Cain spoke briefly about the League's concerns and encouraged residents to learn for themselves about the project and contact their legislators.

League members will want to follow this local issue as it unfolds in the next few months.

—Wyn Cain



Off and Running! Healthcare Interest Group

We had a terrific start for the inaugural Healthcare Interest Group meeting. The group met on March 13 at the Lake Bluff Library with 19 League members and one guest. The group also met on April 17.

Participants discussed a variety of healthcare topics to jump-start ideas for future meetings, including

- Substantial costs, including drugs
- Inability to determine cost prior to service
- Navigating multiple insurance

and drug providers

- Per capita healthcare expenditures

• Inability of Medicare to negotiate drug prices (Congressional Law)

- Cuts in Medicaid and reproductive healthcare
- Affordability of nursing home care

• Availability of mental health services

- Use of opioids
- Single-payer system and

approaches in other countries

- Healthcare and the 2018 elections.

The next meetings are Tuesday, May 15, and Tuesday, June 12, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Bluff Library (123 E. Scranton Avenue) in the lower-level conference room. If you have friends who are interested in healthcare issues, please invite them. All are welcome to attend.

—Steve Potsic

Busy, Busy, Busy Voter Services!

Your Voter Service team was very productive during the recent primary season with candidate debates and "Get Out the Vote" activities.

Debate time: Candidate debates held on Sunday, February 18, were very successful. More than 200 attendees listened to the two Democratic candidates running for Lake County clerk, a position currently held by Carla Wyckoff. The second debate included three Republican candidates running in the 10th Congressional District. Each hoped to take on Rep. Brad Schneider in November. Both debates engaged



First Debate



Second Debate



February 18 Debates Crowd



Robin Huszagh and Beth Berg help stage the scene at the primary debates. They are eager to work with more volunteers again for the candidate debates for the November general election!

audience members, and they submitted more questions than could be answered in the allotted time.

We were fortunate to have the expertise of 30 members from three local League chapters (LWV-LF/LB, Highland Park/Highwood, and Deerfield) who volunteered their time for the debates. North Shore Unitarian Church in Bannockburn also hosted and cosponsored the event. Special mention goes to Valerie Krejcie for moderating, Peg Determan for organizing the candidates; Ann Grant for staffing the membership table; and Robin Huszagh and Beth Berg for managing all of the volunteers. Terry Desmond, Claire Esker, Ann Hamlin, Jackie Johnson, Kelsey Marx, Lois Nicol, Laurie Rose, Trude Roselle, and Anne Vanderbilt worked with volunteers from the other Leagues and ensured everything ran smoothly.

We received excellent media coverage with reporters from two news sources: the *Daily North Shore* and the *Lake Forest Leader*. Both included long articles with pictures. Additionally, our debate picture was the cover of the *Lake Forest Leader*.

We were pleased to receive such wonderful visibility and publicity for the League across a number of mediums.

Illinois Primary Day: While we admit we can't take full credit for the increase in voter turnout, we do think our efforts contributed! Articles in the media explained different ways to vote, and we also provided many persistent and subliminal reminders using Facebook posts, debates, and educational flyers around town and at the high school to VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Once again our "inside man" at Lake Forest High School, Jared Rose, successfully encouraged many students to register and vote. He is a force to be reckoned with, and we will miss his leadership and help when he leaves for college in the fall.

The Voter Service team will be gearing up shortly for voter registration and debate planning. Let us know if you would like to be involved; we have many different opportunities!

—Mary Mathews



Jared Rose

March For Our Lives (March 24, 2018)

If you look closely at the photograph, you will recognize some of our League members (including Marge Burda, Joyce Foster, and Wyn Cain). On March 24, despite the very chilly temperatures, they joined a large group of area students and adults in Vernon Hills, Illinois, to express support for legislative solutions to gun violence through "March For Our Lives." News outlets reported that over 800 such events were held throughout the United States and around the world.

Following the shooting incident at Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, students have taken the lead in organizing marches and rallies in support for enacting strict background checks, age restrictions, restrictions on military-style weapons, and similar laws.

The United States turnout for this event was estimated to be as high as two million people. Obviously, support for such measures is widespread. (The above picture is also displayed on the LWVIL home page!)

LWVIL Appoints Amy New Board Member!

The April edition of the LWVIL E-News included President Bonnie Cox's announcement of Amy Knutson-Strack's appointment to the LWVIL board.

Amy has been a very active member of our League, especially in the area of communications. Amy's

curriculum vitae is impressive; her work with our League has been very productive.

Amy will continue to work in communications along with two additional new LWVIL board appointees.

Congratulations, Amy!



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League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

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Calendar

For complete information about the listed events,
please see the lower part of the previous page.

- May 11** Great Decisions- media, foreign policy
- May 15** Health Care Interest Group
- May 19** Climate Change Science & Policy Expo
- May 24** Climate Change Interest Group
- Jun 8** Great Decisions- Turkey- in crisis?
- Jun 12** Health Care Interest Group
- Jun 13** *** Annual Meeting ***
- Jun 27** LWV Lake Michigan Region meeting
- Jul 28** LWWUS Convention begins
- Jul 4** Lake Bluff parade
- Aug 1** Lake Forest Days parade

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supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that