



BULLETIN

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE

lwwilmette.org

Contact us: LWV-Wilmette, P. O. Box 432, Wilmette, IL 60091
847-604-1207

Vol. 60, No. 5

July 2009

Summer Potluck Luncheon

*Featuring Roberta Rubin of the Book Stall in Winnetka
with summer reading suggestions & an opportunity to purchase books.*

Thursday, July 23 at Noon
Beth Nyhan's, 2624 Blackhawk Road, Wilmette

**Please bring a salad or dessert
to serve 8 guests or \$7.00**

*To help with planning please reply by Monday, July 20 to Dorothy Speidel
at 847-989-4716 or d-speidel@northwestern.edu*

***This is a great opportunity to introduce a friend to the League.
We hope you'll join us!***

Wilmette League of Women Voters at the Wilmette Sidewalk Sale

July 10 and 11

Details inside on page 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	2	LWVCC	3	Consensus	7
LWV-W Board	2	LWVIL	4	Applause	7
Sidewalk Sale	3	New Trier Tour	5	State Convention	8
Census	3	Program	6	Calendar	8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Libby Bankoff recently handed me the gavel and the keys to the League's post office box, all I could think was, "She is going to be one tough act to follow." Libby's commitment and enthusiasm for the League have always been infectious; but as our president for the past year, she has been truly inspirational. The successful programs during Libby's term are evidence of her strong leadership. I am honored to take the helm and follow in Libby's footsteps as your president for 2009-2010.

All of us are better, harder working, and more dedicated League members because of Libby and the Board of 2008-09. The League, however, depends on more than its Board and needs a strong volunteer membership. We are fortunate to have so many members eager to step up; and while it would be impossible to list all of those who volunteered this past year, please know that your support for the League is greatly appreciated.

When I first joined the League, I did so because I knew that the League of Women Voters has a reputation as a highly respected citizens' organization. As a member, I have become a more informed and involved citizen, and have also gained some new and lasting friendships along the way. I know that many of you feel the same way about your membership in this historic, respectable organization.

A few days ago, you received a letter and membership renewal form in the mail for the 2009-2010 year. Please renew your membership as soon as possible. As a member, you can make a difference in our local community, our state, and our country.

-- Therese Steinken

2009-2010 ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Therese Steinken
VP/Programs	Georgia Gebhardt
VP/Membership	Libby Bankoff
Treasurer	Susan Morrison
Secretary/Programs	Dorothy Speidel

2009-2010 ELECTED DIRECTORS

<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	Dale Cohodes
Publicity	Judy Mandel
	Jan Peterson
Student Government	Deena Mitchell
	Lali Watt
Voter Services	Heidi Voorhees
	Ellen Falkof
Web Master	Beth Nyhan

2010 NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Cinda Axley, Chair, Dorothy Speidel & Beth Nyhan

<i>Wilmette</i>	<i>Side</i>	<i>Walk</i>	<i>Sale</i>
The League of Women Voters of Wilmette will have a booth at the Wilmette Sidewalk Sale on July 10th and 11th .	Our location is near the Optima building at 11 th and Central Street. The booth will be open from 9am-5pm. The booth will be staffed in 2-hour shifts on both days.	Handouts to inform the public about the 2010 Census will be available and everyone can participate in a jelly bean counting contest.	For information or to sign up for a shift please contact Judy Mandel at 847-256-2615 or jinxmandel@aol.com .

BEWARE OF CENSUS SCAMS

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way and scammers are hard at work to take advantage of it. During the U.S. Census, households will be contacted by mail, telephone or visited by a U.S. Census worker who will inquire about the number of people living in the house and gather information as to age, gender, race and other relevant information. Unfortunately, people also may be contacted by scammers who are impersonating Census workers in order to gain access to sensitive personal and/or financial information such as social security, bank account or credit card numbers.

Some advice from the Better Business Bureau:

Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim to need it for the U. S. Census. While eventually Census Bureau employees might ask for basic financial information such as income range, they will not ask for specific account numbers, nor will they solicit donations.

U. S. Census workers will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their badge before answering any questions. Regardless, you should never invite anyone you don't know, including a census worker, into your home.

At a future date, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, they **WILL NOT CONTACT YOU BY E-MAIL**, so be on the look-out for e-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH THE LWV-COOK COUNTY

Monday, August 3 from 11:30 a.m.—1 p.m. the LWVCC will be sponsoring the first in a series of fundraiser luncheons. We will have **U.S. Representative Mike Quigley (former Cook County Commissioner)** speak on “Thoughts on How to Improve Cook County Government”.

The luncheon will be at North Café at DePaul University Center, 1 E. Jackson in Chicago and will cost \$30. Proceeds will benefit the League of Women Voters of Cook County. Reservations are required. Check the LWVCC website for details or reservations: www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org.

LWVIL 2009 GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

Sign up online for this membership benefit!

Would you like the League to alert you when key decisions are pending on the issues you care about? Become a Grassroots Advocate!

By signing up online, you will only receive emails and information from the League of Women Voters of Illinois (LWVIL) for issues that are especially important to you.

Sign up for one or as many as you like of the following issues:

CORE ISSUES: Issues identified by our members and the public as core League issues. The 2009 Core Advocacy Issues are:

Fiscal Policy/Tax Reform/ School Funding
Climate Change & Environmental Protection
Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform

WATCHFUL ATTENTION ISSUES: Issues likely to see action at the state legislature level, where we have strong member interest and an opportunity for the League to make an impact. The 2009 Watchful Attention Advocacy Issues are:

Children's Services (Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice)
Civil Liberties/Women's Issues
Criminal Justice
Death Penalty Abolition
Education
Equal Rights Amendment
Election Law/Redistricting
Gun Violence Prevention
Health Care
Immigration
Mental Health
Natural Resources
Smart Growth
Social Policy (TANF, Child Care, Housing, Employment)

To become a Grassroots Advocate, go to the LWVIL website – www.lwvil.org and click on "Issues & Action."

**New Trier High School Facilities Tour
for
The Leagues of Women Voters of Glencoe, Glenview,
Wilmette and Winnetka-Northfield-Kenilworth**

**Tuesday, July 21 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
and
Thursday, July 23 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

After three years of study by staff, parents, students and community members, the New Trier Board of Education has endorsed a Long Range Facilities Plan that outlines facilities priorities over the next several decades. As a next step, the Board will identify a first construction project and its timing. The suggested plan would consist of:

- West side addition at Winnetka (replacing the Cafeteria, Music /Performing Arts Building, and Tech Arts Building –which also would construct approximately 25 new large classrooms for other academic programs)
- East side athletic addition at Winnetka (replacing the Gates facility and adding a Field House with 12 classrooms and additional extracurricular spaces)
- Improvements at Northfield campus (modest renovation of classroom spaces and outdoor athletic space)

The proposed project would require the New Trier Board to seek community approval. The earliest possible referendum would be in February 2010.

—above from the *New Trier High School June 2009 Facilities Plan Looks to Future*

League members and guests are invited to a guided tour of the New Trier High School Winnetka Campus at 385 Winnetka Avenue.

Tour participants will meet in Room 301 for a 30 minute informal presentation by Superintendent Linda Yonke, followed by Q and A and a 90 minute tour with Linda Yonke and John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services.

WILMETTE LEAGUE MEMBERS:

**R.S.V.P no later than Thursday, July 16 to
Therese Steinken: tmsteinken@gmail.com**

**For more information about the proposed projects:
www.newtrier.k12.il.us/facilities**

PROGRAM PLANNING

The league annual meeting has come and gone, and it's time to share our program plans for the coming year. Specific dates and times still need to be determined, but we hope you'll look over the list and make note of those that have appeal. It's our goal to offer something of value to members each and every month from July until next May! Here we go!

July 23	Annual Summer Luncheon & Book Event-watch for your special, postcard invitation with all the details on how to RSVP!
August	Join other League music lovers for an evening of classical music on the Lawn at Ravinia.
September	Get a note from your "Mummy" and come with us for a special tour of the Oriental Institute with our very own Mari Terman.
October	An informal discussion of Malcolm Gladwell's <i>The Outliers</i> . If you haven't read this, get ready to be amazed!
November	We'll take in a program offered by the Chicago Humanities Festival. The year's theme is "Laughter." Just in time!
December	Tis the season for the annual League Holiday Party!
January	The New Year brings a book on the New Deal! Learn about Frances Perkins, US Labor Secretary under FDR and <i>The Woman Behind the New Deal</i> .
February	We hope to arrange a guided tour of the new Holocaust Museum in Skokie.
March	It's time for Woman's History Month & the traditional luncheon with other Northshore leagues.
April	Hopefully, we'll have tickets to "Wait, Wait Don't Tell me." If you've never been, you're in for a treat! Tune into WBEZ on any Saturday at 10:00 a.m. for a preview!
May	Whew! It's the 2010 Annual Meeting.

***Now for the disclaimer! The above list is a sort of "preview of coming attractions." There may be some changes as we go along. Dorothy Speidel and I (Georgia Gebhardt) hope we have most of the ingredients for a successful year of programs. All we need now is YOU! (Please note that as soon as events have a definite time and place, you can get the details on our website at www.lvwilmette.org.)

RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT CONSENSUS/STUDY

On April 30, Wilmette LWV members met to address the consensus questions related to the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact. This compact proposes to bypass the Electoral College, in favor of electing the President and Vice President by direct, popular vote.

Before the consensus discussion, the study committee presented a review of the current system and information on how the NPV Compact would function. After examining the seven questions, each local league transmitted final results to the LWVUS Board. After compiling the data, national concluded that there was no consensus either "for" or "against" the NPV.

In the weeks since the decision was announced, there has been much controversy centered mainly on the quality of the questions that local leagues were asked to address. Many critics felt that the questions were leading and biased. Curiously, none of the seven questions asked directly, "Does your league support the NPV Compact?" Some members have called for a re-opening of the study, giving leagues an opportunity to respond with either a "Yes" or "No." This seems unlikely, given the many other crucial issues to which the League is currently directing its attention.

Dr. Barbara Klein, a NPV committee member, analyzed the data from the committee's report. Some of her conclusions:

390 leagues participated; over 6499 members took part.

League Results

Pro:197

Con:95

No Consensus: 98

League Member Results

Pro: 3349

Con: 1253

No Consensus: 1897

Please note that these few numbers do not tell the whole story. If you are interested in more detail on the breakdown of data, go to the LWVUS website at www.lwv.org. Click on "For Member." Then click on NPV Compact Study, then "Recommendations to the LWVUS Board from NPV Compact Consensus Committee."

APPLAUSE!! APPLAUSE!!

Many thanks should be extended to so many people who, on an ongoing basis, help to make our League strong and vibrant. However, the following members deserve SPECIAL THANKS FOR STEPPING UP this past month:

Susan Morrison – for graciously opening her home to us and hosting our Annual Meeting

Sharon & Chuck Weingarten – for an illuminating presentation and slideshow at our Annual Meeting of their experiences in American Samoa

Mari Terman, Beth Nyhan, Dorothy Speidel & Cinda Axley – for their diligent and successful work as the 2009-2010 LWV-Wilmette Nominating Committee

Georgia Gebhardt, Judy Mandel & Therese Steinken – for planning and organizing the National Popular Vote Compact Consensus Meeting

Patience Kramer, Trudy Gibbs & Libby Bankoff – for volunteering at the United We Learn policy forum, "The Future of Illinois Education," which was co-sponsored by the LWV-Wilmette.

STATE OF ILLINOIS 2009 LWV CONVENTION

East Peoria, Illinois

The League of Women Voters of Illinois (LWVIL) held its Convention last month (June 12-14) in East Peoria, Illinois. Georgia Gebhardt and Therese Steinken attended the three-day event. The Convention provided a wonderful opportunity to gain and share ideas with League members from all across the state of Illinois.

Thirty-three of the 44 local leagues were represented, with over 100 members in attendance. Highlights of the convention include:

Per Member Payments - The PMP (per member payment) will remain the same as the current year at \$26 for fiscal 2010, which begins July 1, 2009. To keep pace with steadily rising necessary fixed costs, the League approved a PMP increase to \$27 for fiscal year 2011, effective July 1, 2010.

House Bill 182 – The League is calling upon its members to urge Governor Quinn to veto House Bill 182, which allows a person to carry a concealed handgun into another person's home.

True Census Count 2010 & Redistricting Reform– The League is urging all local leagues to get involved with the 2010 Census in their community to assure that its community members are counted. The Census directly impacts the number of congressional districts and the amount of federal dollars returned to the state. The League is recommending a review of the redistricting process.

Core Issues for 2009:

Fiscal Policy/Tax Reform/School Funding
Climate Change & Environmental Protection
Campaign Finance & Ethics Reform

Phonathon – The Phonathon is the League's biggest fundraising, netting \$56,000 in fiscal year 2009. All local leagues are strongly encouraged to participate in next year's Phonathon.

LWV as Community Organizer – A workshop on coalition building, with an emphasis on identifying other community organizations with whom local leagues can partner; such as the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, Illinois Council Against Gun Violence, and teacher organizations such as the IEA and AFT.

CALENDAR

JULY 10 & 11	Wilmette Sidewalk Sale
JULY 17	LWV Board Meeting, 1:00 pm, home of Dorothy Speidel, 1535 Elmwood
JULY 21	Tour of New Trier Winnetka Campus, 6:00 – 8:00 pm; Room 301
JULY 23	Summer Potluck Luncheon, 12:00 Noon, home of Beth Nyhan, 2624 Blackhawk Rd.