



BULLETIN

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE

www.lwwilmette.org

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DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message.....2

Board Members.....2

Program Notes.....2

National Convention.....3

Voter Services.....4

Sidewalk Sale.....4

Web.....5

Membership.....5

Notable Matters.....5

Applause.....5

Cook County League.....6

Book Luncheon.....7

Student Government.....7

DESSERT & DIALOGUE

*Dessert & Dialogue** is planned for **July 31 at 7:00 P.M. at the Wilmette Public Library**. We have all followed the course of the recent Transportation Bill, but chances are you didn't hear how this legislation was shepherded through the General Assembly. What is involved in planning a successful campaign? What lessons can we learn and apply to other necessary legislation such as education reform?

Julie Hamos, state representative from the 18th District, will describe her work in crafting this legislation from the planning to the final passage of the bill. There will be ample time for questions/discussion. Come and take advantage of this terrific opportunity for a "civics lesson" given by a skilled veteran in the legislative process. (And enjoy delicious desserts along with what promises to be a great discussion on a timely topic.)

**This event is co-sponsored by the Wilmette, Winnetka/ Northfield/Kenilworth, and Evanston Leagues.*

STRAW POLL RESULTS JUST IN !!!

STRAW POLL VOTING AT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE BOOTH WAS A POPULAR EVENT AT THE SIDEWALK SALE. HERE ARE THE RESULTS:

Obama 106
McCain 13

Durbin 96
Sauerberg 10

Seals 85
Kirk 22

Coulson 44
Biss 38

President's Message

On May 12, 2008, your newly elected Board took the reins of our League. I am honored to be the President of this remarkable, vital and respected organization. As I accept the position of President, I do so with great humility and much enthusiasm.

I am humbled by the honor of following in the footsteps of great civic leaders who have served as our President – from Rayna Miller and Clarice Stetter in the '70s to Mari Terman and Holly Berman in the new millennium.

I am enthusiastic about opportunity presented to all of us to create an impact on local, state and national issues. You have elected a remarkable group of smart, energetic leaders to guide the workings of our League for the coming year. I am excited and delighted by the creativity, dedication and energy that abound within this group.

Our League is a vital organization that gains strength by our collective actions. I sincerely hope that each of you will share some of your time and energy to help our League be all that it can be.

I welcome feedback, ideas and/or suggestions from any and all. After all, this is **YOUR LEAGUE!!!!**

-- Libby Bankoff

2008-2009 League of Women Voters Of Wilmette Board Members

President	Libby Bankoff
Secretary	Susan Berghoef
Treasurer	Susan Morrison
Membership/ Recruitment	Ellen Falkof Therese Steincken
Programs	Georgia Gebhardt Dorothy Speidel
Student Government	Deena Mitchell Bobbie Friedman
Voter Services	Heidi Voorhees Donna Doberstein
Publicity	Judy Mandel
Web Master	Beth Nyhan
Bulletin Editor	Dale Cohodes

PROGRAM NOTES

July 31
Thursday

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DESSERT AND DIALOGUE:

7:00 p.m. at the Wilmette Library

Representative Julie Hamos will describe the successful campaign leading to the passage of the Transportation Bill by the Illinois legislature.

August 5
Tuesday

RAVINIA: Itzhak Perlman celebrates the 50th anniversary of his U. S. debut by playing the Beethoven violin concerto. James Conlon conducts the CSO.

Meet on the steps of the Martin Theater at 6pm. If you arrive later, call Judy Mandel on her cell phone to find out the location of the Leaguers on the Lawn: 847-828-7106. (CSO at 8 pm.)

Bring your dinner, wine, chair etc or bring \$\$\$ to buy food there.

Questions between now and then? Contact Libby Bankoff, libankoff@sbcglobal.net or 847-256-7509.

August 10
Sunday

BRUNCH AND BLOCK MUSEUM:

1 p.m. Brunch at the home of Dorothy Speidel, then a tour of the exhibit at the Block: Design in the Age of Darwin: From William Morris to Frank Lloyd Wright (tour by Dorothy, who is a docent) R.S.V.P. to Dorothy: d-speidel@northwestern.edu or 847-989-4716.

THE LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION Portland, Oregon

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) held its 48th biennial national Convention last month (June 13 – 17, 2008) in Portland, Oregon. Libby Bankoff and Dale Cohodes attended the four-day gathering and came away energized (and a bit exhausted) by the non-stop pace. The convention provided a wonderful opportunity to gain and share ideas with League members from all across the nation, as 49 States plus the District of Columbia were represented.

While **the primary focus of the convention was on readying for Election 2008**, a number of notable action items also were considered by this body of close to 700 delegates.

The **delegates approved a fast-track study item entitled: “The Advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact as a method for electing the President.”** Local leagues have been asked to save a date in January or February 2009 for a consensus meeting.

For more information on the National Popular Vote you can look at this Website, <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/pages/explanation.php>

Climate Change, a subject near and dear to this league, was approved as a National action priority for the LWV. Specifically, the delegation voted to adopt “a Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change” as an amendment to the LWVUS Program for the 2008-2010 biennium.

The LWVUS Board recommended, and the delegation voted to approve, **adoption of a Health Care program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy.**

The LWVUS Principles were amended by adding, **“The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.”**

A more mundane but important issue was considered – the ongoing PMP rate for LWVUS. After a serious discussion, the delegation approved an increase \$1.20 per year for the next two years. **That is, the LWVUS PMP rate for FY 2008-2009 is now \$28, and the PMP rate for FY 2009-2010 will be \$29.20.**

Finally, Dale attended a Web Site Workshop and happily discovered **League Easy Web (LEW), a web site template** offered by the League of Women Voters of California. Switching to this template will allow our league to update/modernize our website for easy use for all.

What's Happening?

Check out the **Calendar of Events** on our new and improved website www.lwvwilmette.org .

This is your **GO TO** place to find out about upcoming **LEAGUE** events!

Voter Services Committee

The Voter Services Committee will be very active in the upcoming election year! We already have dates for voter registration at New Trier (Friday, September 26 and Monday, September 29.) This will allow us to register additional young people to vote in the 2008 general election before the October 7 deadline to register. We plan to contact Loyola Academy, Regina Dominican High School, and North Shore Country Day to see if they are interested in having us come to their schools. We have been very well received each time we've gone to the high school. Recently, we registered more than 80 young people to vote on May 27 at Trevia Day at New Trier High School. In addition, Winnetka League members passed out voter information cards to the seniors. Thank you to Dorothy Speidel, Ellen Falkof, and Karen Donnan for their assistance that day!

The Voter Services Committee will also assist with the Tenth District Congressional Debate and we will organize candidate forums for the state representative and state senator races. In November we will begin work on the highly regarded Voter Services guide to educate voters about the candidates running in the 2009 local elections for Village Board, Park Board, Library Board, and School District Boards.

If you would like to work with the Voter Services Committee, please contact Heidi Voorhees at 847-256-7278 or via e-mail at HeidiJVoorhees@aol.com. Registering voters is a very gratifying experience. If you are interested in becoming a Deputy Registrar, please contact Heidi to sign up for registrar training.

Sidewalk Sale

Thanks to all of you who participated at our booth at the sidewalk sale. Much was done to raise awareness of the League in Wilmette. Thank you to Dale Cohodes for the help with creating our new banner and voter cards; Heidi Voorhees for our ballot box and the straw poll ballots; Georgia Gebhardt and Dorothy Speidel for the info on Con Con and the Julie Hamos event; and to Ellen Falkof and Therese Steinken for membership forms and brochures. A big shout out to Susan Morrison who loaned us the table and chairs.

The booth was successful because so many members worked a shift. Thank you to: Libby Bankoff, Sue Berghoef, Kent Brown, Jane Jacobsen-Brown, Muriel Cohen, Dale Cohodes, Ellen Falkof, Georgia Gebhardt, Trudy Gibbs, Ellen Lunz, Judy Mandel, Susan Morrison, Deena Mitchell, Dorothy Speidel, Therese Steinken, Mari Terman, Heidi Voorhees, and Marilyn Weber.

Hats off to Judy Mandel for spearheading this effort!!

www.lwvwilmette.org

On July 8, 2008 we launched our new and improved League of Women Voters of Wilmette website. Please take a look at www.lwvwilmette.org.

Our new website utilizes the web format that the League of Women Voters of California developed and that many Leagues around the country are now using, including Highland Park, Glencoe, Glenview, Winnetka/Northfield/Kenilworth, Chicago and Cook County. We became aware of its availability after Libby and Dale's trip to the National Convention.

We will have frequent **updates to our calendar which is easy to read**. There is an up-to-date list of our Board members and their contact information. The current issue of the *Bulletin* will be available on the website as well as recent past issues.

If you have any questions, contact Beth Nyhan, at webmaster@lwvwilmette.org.

MEMBERSHIP

By now you should have received the 2008-2009 LWV –Wilmette's Renewal Form in your mailbox. If you did not receive our mailing last week, please email Ellen Falkof at EFalkof@comcast.net or call her at 847-256-0476 to let her know. The sooner we receive the forms back, the sooner we can mail out our updated membership lists.

We are always interested in having new members since a diverse membership enriches all of our League experiences and provides more community members access to the information available at League programs. We hope you will invite your friends to a program this year. If there is someone you know who is considering joining, please contact Ellen or her co-chair, Therese Steinken at tmsteinken@gmail.com, so information about the League and a membership form can be mailed to the prospective member.

Notable Matters

An important question will appear on the November, 2008 ballot. **Should the State of Illinois convene a Constitutional Convention in 2009?** The League of Women Voters of Illinois **opposes holding a constitutional convention at this time**. Much more information will be forthcoming as our League will take on an advocacy role from now until the General Election, 2008.

Our League has designed and produced 1000 **Voter Cards** to distribute widely to members of our community. Each card, folded over, is the size of a standard business card. Yes, they are small, but they contain a wealth of voting information, including key dates related to the 2008 General Election, registration requirements, and how to see a sample ballot.

**APPLAUSE!!
THANKS FOR STEPPING UP!!
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.

Cinda Axley – for planning and organizing the Summer Potluck Luncheon!

Kathy Klawans – for taking on the role of 'Communications Ambassador' for our members who do not use email!

Judy Mandel – for planning and organizing the Sidewalk Sale Booth!

Mari Terman – for stepping up to fill a Board slot in manning the LWV booth at the sidewalk sale!

Mari Terman – for opening her home to all of us as the hostess of the Summer Potluck (book talk) Luncheon!

COOK COUNTY LEAGUE HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Michael Shakman Is the Featured Speaker

The Cook County League, which is an inter-league group made up of the 16 leagues within the county, held its annual meeting on May 19 at Brookfield Zoo. Those attending heard Michael Shakman speak about his law suit that has led to the famous "Shakman Decrees" which are court orders affecting patronage in Chicago and Cook County governments.

Mr. Shakman originally brought suit back in 1969 when he was defeated in his bid to be elected as a delegate to the Illinois Constitutional Convention, a supposedly non-partisan position, as a result of what he alleged was old-style, and illegal, patronage politics. The lawsuit is still pending, making it one of the longest ever! There have been two major judicial decrees which have tried to eliminate patronage as a basis for hiring or firing, or as a requirement for working as a city or county employee. As a result of continued allegations by others that patronage continues, both the city and county governments are still under scrutiny by the court.

After a review of the significant activities of the past year and an update of the study and action committees' work, delegates at the meeting revised the bylaws, adopted a budget, elected new officers and board members, and adopted by concurrence a revised position on juvenile justice. To see the new position, go to the County League's web site:

www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org. On the left of the page, click on "LWVCC Positions," and on the next page, click on "Juvenile Justice."

Officers elected at the annual meeting were Cynthia Schilsky (LaGrange Area) as president, Krista Grimm (LaGrange Area) and Marjy Gilbert (Palos/Orland Area) as vice-presidents, Penny Shnay (Park Forest Area) as secretary,

and Donna Moore (Homewood/Floosmoor) as treasurer.

Nancy Stauton and Pris Mims (OPRF), Arline Doblin, (W/N/K), Millie Juskevics (Chicago) and Betty Rosenblum (Glenview) were elected as Board members. Betty Hayford (Evanston) continues as a Board member. Sue Kravis (Glenview), Karen Hunt (Evanston) and Mary Ellen Matthies (OPRF) were elected to the Nominating Committee.

If you have any interest in County issues, please consider getting involved with the County League. The Employment Practices Study Committee expects to have an organization chart of the departments reporting to the Cook County President on the website later this year, and is continuing to study the county's employment practices. The Budget Process Action Committee will continue to monitor the county's budget process and urge reforms in line with the CC League's budget position. A new Juvenile Justice Action Committee is forming to take action on the newly revised position. As a follow up to a very successful poll reporting project for the February primary election, another similar project is being planned for the November election, along with another televised debate for State's Attorney. And, new observers are always needed to monitor Cook County meetings. All of these committees welcome new members to join them.

For more information on the Cook County League and to join a committee please contact the League at info@cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org or at 312-939-5935.

LUNCHBOOKSLUNCHBOOKSLUNCHBOOKSLUNCHBOOKSLUNCH

Members of the Wilmette League enjoyed another successful Summer Potluck Luncheon as thirty-three members and their guests gathered at Mari Terman's home on July 10th. As has been the custom, 'Good Books for Summer Reading' was the topic for discussion following lunch, with Roberta Rubin of The Book Stall in Winnetka presenting a jam-packed program filled with a myriad of suggestions for both fiction and non-fiction books. There was truly a title (or two or three!) for everyone to savor this summer. In case you missed the luncheon or would like a second copy of her recommendations, included below is the list of books Roberta featured so you can check them out on your own.

We thank Mari for offering her house and garden once again and hats off to our members who helped coordinate the afternoon: Dorothy Speidel, Georgia Gebhardt, Therese Steinken, Libby Bankoff, and Cinda Axley. Adding these women to the list of those who contributed something to the buffet table and others who brought along a prospective member made the luncheon truly a team effort.

FICTION

The Enchantress of Florence by Salman Rusdie
The Aviary Gate by Katie Hickman
An Incomplete Revenge by Jacqueline Winspear
Child 44 by Tom Rob Smith
The Spies of Warsaw by Alan Furst
Breath by Tim Winton
Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski
Netherland by Joseph O'Neill
On Chesil Beach by Ian McEwan

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout
Mudbound by Hillary Jordan
The day i ate whatever i wanted by Elizabeth Berg
Loving Frank by Nancy Horan
Mr. Pip by Lloyd Jones
Coal Black Horse by Robert Olmsted
Consequences by Penelope Lively
Out Stealing Horses by Per Petterson
The Septembers of Shiraz by Dalia Sofer

NON-FICTION

Audition by Barbara Walters
Sit, Ubu, Sit by Gary David Goldberg
When You are Engulfed in Flames by David Sedaris
Reprisals by Tony Judt
The Man Who Loved China by Simon Winchester
The Nine: Inside the World of the Supreme Court by Jeffrey Toobin
American Priestess by Jane Fletcher Geniesse

Freedom for the Thought That We Hate by Anthony Lewis
The Food We Crave by Ellie Krieger
The Way We Live With Color by Stafford Cliff
Books: A Memoir by Larry McMurtry
On Becoming Fearless by Arianna Huffington
Apples and Oranges by Marie Brenner
Here If You Need Me by Kate Braestrup

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Awful Ogre Running Wild by Jack Prelutsky
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig by Kate DiCamillo

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Planning for the Student Government Program is in full swing. The committee met with social studies teacher Beth Kalish of the WJHS in late Spring, and agreed to stay with the Fall timing. Additionally, based on input from committee member and Village Board member Lali Watt we agreed that adding back school-specific breakfasts (on a much smaller scale) would be very helpful in allowing the students to get to know their counterparts as well as providing an opportunity to have the parliamentary procedure workshop. The other three schools involved in the program were also in favor of keeping the fall timing and adding a breakfast.

We hope to kick the program off with our traditional evening with Julie Hamos this fall. If you are interested in helping with this favorite League program please contact Deena Mitchell at 847 853-0316 or deenamitchell@hotmail.com.