



League of Women  
Voters of Wilmette

# BULLETIN

*Dedicated to promoting political responsibility*  
Volume 68, No. 4

June 2008

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*You are invited to*  
**The Wilmette League of Women Voters**  
**Summer Potluck Luncheon**  
*Featuring Roberta Rubin of The Book Stall in Winnetka  
 With summer reading suggestions & an opportunity to  
 purchase books*

**Thursday, July 10th at Noon**  
**Mari Terman's**  
**941 Sheridan Road in Wilmette**

*Please bring a salad or dessert to serve 8 guests or \$5.00*

*To help with planning, please reply by Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup> to  
Cinda Axley at 847.251.4366 or caxley112@comcast.net*

*This is a great opportunity to introduce a friend to the League.*

***We hope you'll join us!***

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Whether you have a lot or a little time for volunteer activities, the Wilmette League has something for you! The following are a few ideas:

- Become a deputy registrar and assist in voter registration efforts this fall.
- Assist in candidate forums, serving as a timekeeper, greeter, moderator, usher, or question screener.
- Help plan a program – book event, brown bag issue luncheon.
- Do you have a junior high student? Could you assist in Student Government Day?

Your opportunity to contribute to the education and participation of the electorate is a phone call or e-mail away! Please contact Libby Bankoff to further discuss your volunteer activities or go directly to the committee chair. See the incoming Board list on page 8 for contact information .

# APPLAUSE APPLAUSE !!!

The time has come to pass out orchids (the virtual kind) to all League members who have registered, poll-watched, strategized, and served in a myriad of ways during this past year. The following is a list of volunteers who have supported the League in its work. If we have missed acknowledging someone, we offer our sincere apologies. (Submit any names we have forgotten for fabulous prizes, such as mention in the next *Bulletin!*)

<b>Student Government:</b>	Deena Mitchell, Ellen Falkof, Georgia Gebhardt
<b>Voter Services:</b>	Donna Doberstein, Dorothy Speidel, Deena Mitchell
<b>Nat'l. Immigration Study:</b>	Dorothy Speidel
<b>July Book Event:</b>	Mari Terman, Dorothy Speidel
<b>State of the Village:</b>	Heidi Voorhees
<b>Con-Con Study:</b>	Georgia Gebhardt, Dorothy Speidel, Kathy Klawans, Lesley Green
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Georgia Gebhardt, (Mike Caldwell, consultant)
<b>Poll reporting:</b>	Tina Herpe, Susan Morrison, Dorothy Speidel, Georgia Gebhardt
<b>New Trier Registrars:</b>	Mari Terman, Judy Mandel, Tina Herpe, Georgia Gebhardt, Heidi Voorhees, Deena Mitchell, Dorothy Speidel, Clarice Stetter
<b>Budget Committee:</b>	Marylin Weber, Kathy Klawans, Heidi Voorhees, Georgia Gebhardt
<b>Our Climate Matters:</b>	Libby Bankoff, Dale Cohodes, Mari Terman
<b>Christmas Party Hostess:</b>	Dorothy Speidel

## LWV Board: 2007-2008

<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	Dorothy Speidel, Heidi Voorhees, Georgia Gebhardt
<b>Student Government:</b>	Deena Mitchell
<b>Membership:</b>	Ellen Falkof
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Marylin Weber
<b>Secretary:</b>	Sue Berghoef
<b>Voters Services:</b>	Donna Doberstein
<b>Publicity:</b>	Judy Mandel
<b>Bulletin:</b>	Dale Cohodes
<b>Special Projects:</b>	Libby Bankoff
<b>Member at Large</b>	Marvin Miller (We will miss you, Marvin.)

## We're tickled pink about something green!

And now an occasion to make us all proud! Our very own (new president), Libby Bankoff, is the recipient of the Environmentalist of the Year Award from the Illinois League of Conservation Voters!

Of course Libby would say that she had a whole army of people who helped make *Our Climate Matters* happen, which is certainly true. However, I am writing this article, so I can say what I like, and I say that Libby was the driving force behind this impressive symposium. It simply wouldn't have happened without her energy and her vision. We are more than delighted that one of our own has been recognized! Bravo, Lib!

Here are the details as we go to press: The event at which Libby will be honored is scheduled for Thursday, May 29 at 6:30 P.M. at 340 on the Park (340 E. Randolph). Keynote Guests will be Senator Richard Durbin and Congresswoman Melissa Bean.

This is a tribute, not only to Libby, but to all of you who worked so hard on this event. And you thought no one was noticing!

—Georgia

# Voter Registration

This year's highly successful registration of New Trier students built on last year's efforts coordinated by **Deena Mitchell**. This year, **Donna Doberstein and Dorothy Speidel** worked closely with New Trier Advisory Chairs Tom Tebbe and Cindee Scott, scheduling a two day registration blitz utilizing the following Deputy Registrars from Wilmette's League: **Georgia Gebhardt, Tina Herpe, Judy Mandel, Deena Mitchell, Dorothy Speidel, Clarice Stetter, Mari Terman, and Heidi Voorhees**. In addition, we were joined by five registrars from the Glencoe league, three from Glenview's league, and six from the Winnetka, Northfield, Kenilworth league.

More than 200 students were registered – a special thanks to Tina Herpe who went back a third day to catch one last advisory. The collaboration of the New Trier Township leagues and the co-operation from New Trier was particularly gratifying! Efforts are underway for another registration effort in September.

***If you want to become a Deputy Registrar, there will be registrar training programs offered at the Skokie Public Library from 10 -11 a.m. on the following dates:***

***May 31***

***July 26***

***August 9***

***If you are interested, please contact Voter Services co-chair Heidi Voorhees at [Heidijvoorhees@aol.com](mailto:Heidijvoorhees@aol.com) and she will submit your name. Additional information on voter registration deadlines can be found at [www.voterinonet.com](http://www.voterinonet.com).***

## Summary of the Annual Meeting – May 12

The annual meeting of the Wilmette League of Women Voters was graciously hosted by **Dale Cohodes** (Thank you!!). Seventeen members were in attendance and we opened the meeting with memories of Marvin Miller and Kitty Pfitzenreuter, who both passed away the previous week. Marvin was the first male member of the Wilmette League and served on our Board. Kitty was also a very active member having served as President. Thank you to Mimi Ryan for leading us as we recalled the remarkable contributions of these wonderful and inspirational people.

We progressed through the agenda of the annual meeting, reviewing the highlights of the past year, approving the budget for 2009, and accepting the report of the Nominating Committee. Of particular note:

**The Student Government Committee** will continue to refine this event that has spanned more than 30 years and is a hallmark of the Wilmette League. This year, participation by the Wilmette Junior High was down significantly. In past years, there were not nearly enough spaces for the students who wanted to participate. **Deena Mitchell** is coordinating this project on behalf of the league and will be assisted by **Bobbie Friedman** and **Lali Watt**. Additional volunteers are welcome!

**The Voter Service Committee** will continue to be an active committee in the upcoming year. Building on last year's successful voter registration drive at New Trier where more than 200 students were registered through their adviser series, the committee also plans to reach out to Loyola Academy, Regina Dominican High School, and North Shore Country Day. Plans are underway to register students on May 27 at New Trier and again in September. **Heidi Voorhees** and **Donna Doberstein** will chair the committee assisted by **Muriel Cohen, Susan Morrison, Marilyn Weber, Beth Nyhan and Pat Harada**.

**The Program Committee** will take to heart the comments from our February all member Strategy Session when we discussed the need to have a variety of program/outreach efforts including social activities, book events, and brown bag issue lunches. These efforts will increase the visibility of the league as well as provide opportunities to get to know one another. The Program Committee will be led by **Georgia Gebhardt** who will be assisted by **Dorothy Speidel, Holly Berman and Deena Mitchell**.

A special thank you to Libby Bankoff for her thoughtful comments about this year's League leadership and for the beautiful engraved Crystal Cave gavels!

Members who attended the annual meeting: **Libby Bankoff, Holly Berman, Muriel Cohen, Dale Cohodes, Ellen Falkof, Kathy Klawans, Pat Harada, Judy Mandel, Deena Mitchell, Susan Morrison, Beth Nyhan, Mimi Ryan, Dorothy Speidel, Therese Steinken, Heidi Voorhees, Lali Watt and Marilyn Weber**.

## **FEBRUARY Primary Poll Reporting Project**

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the Poll Reporting Project for the February 5, 2008 Primary sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Cook County. The results from the 319 surveys submitted by your League and the other suburban Leagues in Cook County have now been tabulated and the comments and suggestions compiled in a report that has been submitted to each local League, as well as to David Orr, the Cook County Clerk, who is in charge of elections in suburban Cook County.

The Cook County League is pleased to report that many improvements have been made in the process since the November 2006 election, when the last poll reporting project was conducted. In particular, as reflected at the 319 precincts that our observers reported on, during the February 5 Primary:

the equipment was generally working well, although there were still problems with at least one of the touch screens in 19% of the precincts reporting;

most precincts (90%) had trained equipment managers, who were able to both prevent and promptly fix many of the equipment problems;

the vast majority of judges surveyed thought the training was adequate (96%) and the manual was adequate (over 98%), though some of our reporters' observations indicate that some judges did not absorb all they needed to know;

support from the County election staff had improved greatly, both in terms of response time and in terms of being able to provide instructions over the phone, though some problems still remained; and

most polling places (87%) were reported to be adequate, but those with problems are detailed in the full report.

### **More Election Judges Needed**

By far the biggest challenge to making the process work the way it should is attracting sufficient numbers of election judges. Over 50% of the precincts surveyed (158 out of 316 reports) had fewer than the full 5-judge complement. There are specific suggestions provided by the judges themselves and our poll reporters to assist with this problem that are listed in the full report.

The Cook County League commits to working with the sixteen local Leagues in Cook County to try to recruit more people to be election judges. So please consider being a judge for the November 4, 2008 general election. And please let your friends and family members know that judges are needed. Election judges receive at least \$170 for working election day and attending a required training class. Contact your local political party township committee person to apply to be a judge. Or go to [www.voterinfonet.com](http://www.voterinfonet.com) (the Cook County Clerk's election web site) for more information.

## **A Consensus Meeting Should Illinois Convene a Constitutional Convention?**

On April 5, 2008 at the home of Heidi Voorhees, thirteen members of the Wilmette League attended a consensus meeting to answer the question, "Should Illinois convene a constitutional convention?" The study committee (Georgia Gebhardt, Dorothy Speidel, Kathy Klawans, and Lesley Green) presented the results of its research, outlining the arguments for and against.

A wide-ranging discussion followed the presentation, in which numerous questions were raised. What issues do we in Illinois need to address? What is the most efficient method for resolving long-standing challenges such as school finance, ethics laws, redistricting, merit selection of judges, campaign finance, income tax, and legislative gridlock? What are the pitfalls of opening up the document to possible complete revision? Can the state afford the \$75-\$100 million price tag for such a convention? Would our current strong Bill of Rights become more narrowly defined by a new convention? And lastly, is the structure of the current constitution the source of our ineffective government or is it a lack of political will and leadership? Could most of the state's problems be solved by legislation or amendment to the current constitution?

As the group worked through the consensus process, it became clear that members saw more negatives in opening the current 1970 constitution to re-examination and change. This agreement to say, "No," to the question was communicated to the State League, and we now await the announcement of the State position, which will be binding on all locals. After this final judgment is announced, each local league will be encouraged to raise public awareness of this issue and the points to consider in order to cast an informed vote in the upcoming November election.

## ***State of the Village 2008***

More than 50 League members and guests attended the State of the Village event on Thursday, April 3 at the Lakeview Center. We enjoyed a buffet dinner and then heard remarks from our government leaders including Village President Chris Canning, Park Board member David Miller, District 39 President Al Dolinko, New Trier Board President Carol Ducommun, Library Board President David Oser, and Avoca District 37 Superintendent Dr. Joseph Porto. The program was taped by cable television crews and shown several times on Wilmette Cable Channel 6.

## THE LWVUS CONVENTION “REACHING NEW HEIGHTS TOGETHER”

Libby Bankoff and Dale Cohodes will be representing our League at the 2008 national convention in Portland, Oregon. From June 13-17, they will be rubbing elbows with other League members from across the nation and will determine the policies and positions that will inform our work during the coming year.

The LWVUS Budget Committee is recommending a cost of living increase of \$1.20 for PMP (Per Member Payments) for the next fiscal year. If adopted by the national convention, the PMP will be \$28. Add \$26 for the state PMP, and you can see that a large portion of each local member's dues are dedicated to national and state operations.

In addition to the budget, there will be a dizzying array of caucuses, speakers and resolutions. Libby and Dale have been inundated by communications from leagues across the country, asking for consideration of various positions. Of course, we will also be eager to hear who are the recipients of the Convention 2008 Awards, most particularly the Pioneer Award. Our local Wilmette league has applied for this award on the basis of the symposium, *Our Climate Matters*. Wouldn't it be exciting if this recognition came and was accepted by two of the people most responsible for the program's success? (That would be our own Libby and Dale!)

Whatever happens, be assured that you will receive a complete report on convention highlights later in the summer.

## CALENDAR

June 5	LWV Board meeting, 8:00 A.M., home of Libby Bankoff, 2106 Elmwood
June 13-17	National LWV Convention, Portland, Oregon
July 3	LWV Board, 9:30 A.M., 2106 Elmwood
July 10	Summer Book Luncheon, home of Mari Terman, 941 Sheridan Rd., Noon

## *Au Revoir/Adios/Farewell*

Though we bid you farewell as your league vice-presidents who shared the Presidents' duties these past two years, we are all staying on the Board and look forward to another exciting, productive year. We had a wonderful year and while we did not know one another well before forming our "triumvirate" we became fast friends supporting each other through various trials and tribulations as we collaborated to get the good work of the league accomplished. This has always been the story of the League – women (and a few men) coming together to do important work and finding solid and lasting friendships along the way. We are grateful for the assistance and camaraderie of so many dedicated volunteers. Particularly heartwarming was the response to the all member strategy meeting where our membership clearly stated a desire for the Wilmette League to go forward and assisted all of the Board members in finding new ways to attract and keep our members.

— Heidi Voorhees, Georgia Gebhardt, Dorothy Speidel

## **2008 Wilmette League of Women Voters Leadership**

**President:** Libby Bankoff – lbankoff@sbcglobal.net – 847-256-7509

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Bobbie Friedman – bobbiejoy@sbcglobal.net – 847-256-1432

**Programs:** Georgia Gebhardt – ggebhardt@sbcglobal.net – 847-853-8225  
Dorothy Speidel – d-speidel@northwestern.edu – 847-989-4716

**Voter Services:** Heidi Voorhees – HeidiJVoorhees@aol.com; 847-256-7278  
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