



# BULLETIN

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE

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

[lwwilmette.org](http://lwwilmette.org)

847-604-1207

League of Women Voters  
of Wilmette

Volume 71, Number 4

May/June 2011

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

*The League of Women Voters of Wilmette  
Annual Meeting*

*7:00 P.M.*

*Tuesday, June 7, 2011*

*Home of Mari Terman*

*941 Sheridan Road*

*Wilmette*



## LWVIL CONVENTION JUNE 10-12 IN SKOKIE

If you have never attended a State League convention, this is your chance, for it'll all be happening in our backyard. Wilmette is partnering with other North Shore Leagues to host the convention at the Holiday Inn on Touhy in Skokie.

What happens at the convention? Delegates determine what issues the Illinois LWV will focus on during the next two years. The officers and Board will also be elected, and LWVUS President Elizabeth McNamara will spend some time with us. In addition, there are many breakout sessions on current political topics. It's also a chance to network with League members from around the State.

It's not all work, of course. On Friday evening, the speaker will be Mary Ann Ahern, political reporter for NBC Chicago. Saturday evening the special treat will be the always entertaining Chicago Bar Association Traveling Show.

To support the State League there is an ONLINE AUCTION currently running. Go to <http://www.lwvil.org>.

Are you willing to fill a two-hour, volunteer slot at the convention? Call or email Georgia Gebhardt, [ggebhardt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ggebhardt@sbcglobal.net) or (847)853-8225. Details are, of course, available on the State League website at the address listed above.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

This has been an especially active year for the Wilmette League. Besides our usual work sponsoring candidate forums, registering voters, publishing a Voter Guide and administering the **37<sup>th</sup> annual** League of Student and Government Leaders program (yes, it's a name change), we supported the District #39 referendum. That action, of course, was properly preceded by a study, in which committee members closely examined the budget and district practices. As they say, "the rest is history." We are gratified that Wilmette voters agreed with our assessment of the problem and the necessary remedy. It was a great way to end a year of activism, supporting the excellent public education provided to our community's children.

At the **annual meeting on Tuesday, June 7, at 7:00** we formally say farewell to 2010-2011 and begin a new year with some interesting issues already identified. Our first task will be to take part in a national study on the Role of the Federal Government in Education. If this topic intrigues you, plan to attend the annual meeting at Mari Terman's home (**941 Sheridan Road**).

We'll begin the conversation about our League's direction for the coming year, as well as elect a new Board, and celebrate another productive year with new and old friends. **Remember to bring your annual meeting packet included in this month's bulletin!** See you there.

— Georgia

### Important Fundraising Announcement

We are very happy to announce that we have an anonymous donor who has offered to match all contributions made to our Ed. Fund for the next year. This offer will double any contributions made by our members!

Please remember this when you pay your dues for next year. Even a small donation helps! If you want to take advantage of this offer, remember to make out the check for contributions separately to the "*LWV Wilmette Educational Fund*".

Thank you, Susan Morrison, Treasurer

## Officers and Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

Administrative Director/Vice President  
Georgia Gebhardt  
Administrative Director/Treasurer  
Susan Morrison  
Secretary  
Therese Steinken  
Programs/Vice President  
Libby Bankoff  
Voter Services/Vice President  
Dorothy Speidel  
Web Master/Vice President  
Beth Nyhan

### **2011 Nominating Committee**

Deena Mitchell, Chair  
Cinda Axley,  
Beth Nyhan  
Dorothy Speidel

### DIRECTORS

Membership/Internal Communications  
Jan Peterson  
League of Student and Government Leaders  
Lali Watt  
Stephanie Phelan  
Publicity  
Judy Mandel  
*Bulletin* Editor  
Dale Cohodes  
At-Large  
Nancy Canafax  
Ellen Falkof  
Mindy Heidekat  
Betty Jacobs  
Jae Choi Kim  
Sue Rasher  
Heidi Voorhees

**The League of Women Voters of Wilmette  
Annual Meeting**

**7:00 P.M.  
Tuesday, June 7, 2011  
Home of Mari Terman  
941 Sheridan Road  
Wilmette**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of Rules
- III. Secretary Report
  - A. Annual Meeting Minutes 2010
  - B. Annual Meeting Minutes 2011- appointment of reading committee
- IV. Report of the League Year
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. Budget Committee Presentation
- VII. Report of Nominating Committee
- VIII. Elections
- IX. What's Ahead for 2011-2012? Meeting the Mission to Inform & Educate
- X. Announcements
- XI. Adjournment

***BRING THIS PACKET WITH YOU TO THE  
ANNUAL MEETING***

## The League of Women Voters of Wilmette Annual Meeting

7:00 pm

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Home of Dale Cohodes

2531 Kenilworth Avenue, Wilmette

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. **Call to Order:** President Therese Steinken called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.
- II. **Adoption of Rules:** Libby Bankoff moved and Sarah Oliver seconded that the meeting would be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order. The motion passed. Dale Cohodes agreed to serve as parliamentarian.
- III. **Secretary Report**
  - A. **Annual Meeting Minutes 2009:** Judy Mandel moved and Libby Bankoff seconded That the Annual Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2009, be approved. The motion passed.
  - B. **Annual Meeting Minutes 2010:** Appointment of reading committee: Dale Cohodes, Georgia Gebhardt and Cinda Axley agreed to serve as the reading committee.
- IV. **Report of the League Year**
  - A. **Membership.** Libby Bankoff reported that the Wilmette League has 86 members. Of that, 8 are National members and 4 are new members. We have 2 lifetime members. Libby sent out over 80 letters to elected Village officials inviting them to become members. There were no responses. It was suggested that a small card be created listing 5 things the Wilmette League does. Libby did create a new tri-fold brochure.
  - B. **Student Government Program.** A report from Lali Watt was read. This was the 37<sup>th</sup> year that the Wilmette League has offered this program! 64 junior high school students participated from three schools this year: WJHS, Marie Murphy School and St. Francis Xavier. St Joseph did not participate due to their small class size and lack of student interest. Illinois Representative Julie Hamos again kicked off the opening event. The program culminated with mock meetings of the various Village boards.
  - C. **Voter Services:**
    - Voter Registration:** Ellen Falcof presented a report from Heidi Voorhees. On November 10-11, 2009, approximately a dozen deputy registrars fanned out to New Trier Adviseries and registered 228 new voters in two days. On Trevia Day, May 27, 2010, another 35 students registered to vote.
    - Candidate Forums:** On January 7, 2010, the Wilmette League co-sponsored the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District's candidates' forum at New Trier West. On January 10, our League co-sponsored the 13<sup>th</sup> District Cook County Candidate Forum and the 18<sup>th</sup> Illinois Legislative District Candidate Forum at Evanston High School.
    - State of the Village:** On April 15, 2010, the Wilmette League sponsored the State of the Village event at the Lakeshore Center at Gilson Park. A dinner was followed by presentations from the leaders of our Village boards providing an update on issues facing their boards. It was attended by more than 50 residents and was taped for rebroadcast on cable television.
  - D. **Publicity:** Judy Mandel reported that information was sent to the calendars of the Wilmette Life, the Local Tribune and Make It Better. In the summer of 2009, the League had a table at the annual Sidewalk Sale. Members passed out information about the importance of the 2010 census. We will have a table again in 2010 and will conduct a straw poll. Suggestions were made: create a LWV Wilmette sticker and put it on anything appropriate. The sticker could also say: "join now" and offer a discount.
  - E. **Website:** Therese reported for Beth Nyhan. Beth, Susan Morrison and Libby are working on Pay Pal for payment of dues. There will be a fee – maybe \$2 per member.

**F. Bulletin:** Dale reported that about 10-12 members get a print copy of the *Bulletin*. The rest receive it electronically.

**G. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review LWV Wilmette Positions:** The Committee consisted of Jae Kim, Lali Watt, Susan Morrison and Mari Terman. The Committee went over each position and found that most of the positions have been achieved and/or are otherwise obsolete. The Committee re-wrote the Gun Control position and made changes in the Housing, Community Relations, and Planning and Zoning positions. **Changes in the positions are underlined:**

**Gun Control:** In 2008 Wilmette's handgun control ban was revoked in response to a case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court: District of Columbia v. Heller. 2010 - Support monitoring Constitutional changes in gun control regulations. Support restrictions and handgun control laws in Wilmette to the extent allowable under the law.

**Housing for Special Populations:** 1987-Continued support for a wide range of housing options to be available to people with disabilities and mental illness in Wilmette and New Trier Township. SUPPORT of a continued role for New Trier Township in educating and developing an awareness of the need for housing for people with disabilities and mental illness throughout the township.

**Community Relations:** 2010 – SUPPORT and/or INITIATE effort within the community to encourage understanding and respect between and among all residents and to acknowledge the value of diversity within the Village of Wilmette.

**Library:** No Change

**Parks and Recreation:** No Change

**Planning and Zoning:** 1979-(formerly under "Wilmette Population Patterns") SUPPORT of measures to achieve the following: Increased transportation opportunities. More interaction among governmental bodies in planning and zoning matters. - In applying the Planned Unit Development process, support for consideration such as the following. criteria for reuse of public buildings or the construction of new commercial buildings: specific need, benefit to whole community, compatibility with neighborhood, appropriateness of site for proposed use, legal restrictions, return to tax rolls, environmental considerations, historic preservation and service oriented purpose.

1980-SUPPORT for periodic review of the Comprehensive Plan to insure the incorporation of current data.

The rest of the Planning and Zoning section – no change

**School District #39 Board Selection Process:** No change

**H. Programs 2008-2010:** Georgia Gebhardt reported that we had two full years of programs including summer book luncheons with Roberta Rubin of the Bookstall (by far the biggest draw), an evening at Ravinia, a tour of the Oriental Institute by member Mari Terman, annual holiday parties, a program on Reproductive Rights by an attorney with the ACLU, attending a play *Votes for Women*, book discussions of *The Nine* and *The Outliers*, two programs with the Wilmette Library for "One Book Everybody Reads", and a talk about the Illinois budget with Ralph Martire. Georgia noted that the challenge was presenting interesting programs knowing that the attendance is usually small.

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Susan Morrison reported that the Wilmette League is very healthy financially. She presented a color chart comparing the Fund Balances for 5/27/09 and 5/27/10: The checking account was up and the Education Fund was down – we have become better about using the Ed Fund by applying for the funds and giving an estimate of costs well before the event. The CD remains the same. The balances at 5/27/10 are: Checking Account \$4,411.87, Education Fund \$5,574.14, and the CD \$5,820.99.

**VI. Budget Committee Presentation:** Susan Morrison reported that the Budget Committee was made up of Susan and Kathy Klawans. The Committee was conservative on estimates both for revenue and for membership. The Angel Fund (for members who have asked for financial help in paying dues) was added at \$120.00 (the PMP for two people). Libby Bankoff moved and Sarah Oliver seconded that the Operating

Education Fund Budget be approved. The motion carried. (Both budgets may be found in detail in the Bulletin for May 2010, which is on the website.)

**VII. Report of Nominating Committee:** Cinda Axley gave the Nominating Committee report. The slate was presented as follows:

<b>OFFICERS:</b>		<b>Term Ends</b>
Administrative Director/Vice President	Georgia Gebhardt	2011
Administrative Director/Treasurer	Susan Morrison	2012
Secretary	Therese Steinken	2011
Programs/Vice President	Libby Bankoff	2011
Voter Services/Vice President	Dorothy Speidel	2011
Web Master/Vice President	Beth Nyhan	2011

<b>DIRECTORS:</b>		
Membership/Internal Communications Director	Jan Peterson	2011
Student Government Director	Lali Watt	2012
Student Government Director	Stephanie Phelan	2012
Publicity Director	Judy Mandel	2011
<i>Bulletin</i> Editor/Director	Dale Cohodes	2011
Director-at-Large	Mindy Heidekat	2011
Director-at-Large	Sue Rasher	2011
Director-at-Large	Betty Jacobs	2011
Director-at-Large	Nancy Canafax	2011
Director-at-Large	Jae Choi Kim	2011

**2011 Nominating Committee**

Deena Mitchell, Chair  
 Cinda Axley  
 Beth Nyhan  
 Dorothy Speidel

**VIII. Elections:** Sarah Oliver moved and Libby Bankoff seconded that the presented slate be elected. It was pointed out that Stephanie Phelan was not a member of the League. The motion was amended to take Stephanie Phelan off the list. The motion as amended was passed.

**IX. Presentation by Dorothy Speidel – her experiences as a volunteer:**

**X. Announcements:** Therese Steinken made the following announcements:

- There will be 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District forums in the fall
- The speaker for the Women’s History Luncheon next spring may be Terry Savage
- Lali Watt will attend the National Convention in Atlanta as our representative
- The Illinois State Convention in June, 2011, will be in Lincolnwood

The Wilmette League has been approached about merging with the Winnetka-Northbrook-Kenilworth and Glencoe Leagues.

**XI. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Dorothy J. Speidel  
 Secretary

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE  
REPORT OF BYLAWS COMMITTEE  
JUNE, 2011**

**PROPOSED CHANGES**

Changes to the current bylaws (attached) are noted as follows:

1. The current bylaws are in black typeface.
2. Proposed omissions are stricken through.
3. Proposed additions are in green typeface.

The following is a list of the fundamental changes that the Bylaws Committee is proposing:

**Article IV:**

**Section 1 (c): Selection and Term.** Addition of Directors-at-Large, their role and their voting privileges

**Section 3: Vacancies.** Language not as stringent regarding resignation of a Board member with three unexcused absences.

**Section 5: Executive Committee.** Consolidated all previously included information regarding the Executive Committee; changed the composition of Executive Committee (no longer only officers but any Board member); and power of Executive Committee is to be delegated by the Board as opposed to unilateral power

**Section 6: Quorum.** Changed quorum requirement to include only the number of Board members present and not include the Directors-at-Large when determining a quorum

**Article V:**

**Section 1: Election and Term.** Eliminated the requirement of four Vice Presidents and replaced requirement with at least one Vice President but no specific number of VPs stated.

Added language expanding the title of President to include any title that the Board or Nominating Committee deems necessary or adequate to fulfill the duties of President. Staggered election terms (half the Board elected in even years, other half in odd years) were eliminated as not realistic; however, the Nominating Committee should still make every effort to stagger terms.

**Article VI:**

**Section 5: Audit Committee.** No changes are proposed. However, the national league's sample bylaws for local leagues makes only one reference to audits under the role of the Treasurer (Article 5, section 6).

**Article VII:**

**Section 1: Bylaws Committee.** No changes are proposed. However, this Bylaws Committee would like members to be aware that bylaws can be changed either under Article VII (by a committee prior to the Annual Meeting) or under Article XII, Section 1 (as an amendment any time of the year).

**Article VIII:**

**Section 1: Membership Meetings.** Changed number of required membership meetings per year to three from four.

**LWV Wilmette Operating Budget**  
**Fiscal Year July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012**

	2007-08	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2010- 2011	2010-2011	2011-2012
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Actual</i>	YTD	Estimate	Total	Budget
				7/1/10- 04/29/11	4/30/10- 06/30/11	(Est.)	
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>							
Contributions	\$500.00	\$470.00	\$1,085.00	\$700.00	\$450.00	\$1,150.00	\$700.00
LWV-II Phonathon	\$208.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership	<u>\$4,990.00</u>	<u>\$5,105.00</u>	<u>\$5,010.00</u>	<u>\$5,197.50</u>	<u>\$65.00</u>	<u>\$5,262.50</u>	<u>\$5,200.00</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$5,698.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,575.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,095.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,897.50</u></b>	<b><u>\$515.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,412.50</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,900.00</u></b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>							
<b><i>Dues</i></b>							
LWV-US	\$1,222.12	\$1,296.00	\$1,082.32	\$840.87	\$280.29	\$1,121.16	\$1,132.50
LWV-IL	\$1,692.00	\$1,833.00	\$1,472.25	\$1,528.87	\$0.00	\$1,528.87	\$1,528.87
LWV-Cook County	\$423.00	\$423.00	\$339.75	\$339.75	\$0.00	\$339.75	\$339.75
Lake Michigan Interleague	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Angel Fund	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$65.00</u>	<u>\$65.00</u>	<u>\$120.00</u>
<b>Total Dues</b>	<b>\$3,362.12</b>	<b>\$3,577.00</b>	<b>\$2,894.32</b>	<b>\$2,734.49</b>	<b>\$345.29</b>	<b>\$3,079.78</b>	<b>\$3,146.12</b>
<b><i>General Administration</i></b>							
Admin. Costs	\$219.51	\$636.32	\$195.83	\$178.50	\$0.00	\$178.50	\$200.00
Bulk Mail Permit	(\$215.14)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bulletin	\$63.47	\$55.42	\$59.44	\$7.92	\$0.00	\$7.92	\$20.00
Directory	\$0.00	\$600.24	\$221.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
Gifts	\$265.00	\$224.94	\$84.92	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$100.00
Insurance	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$71.25	\$0.00	\$71.25	\$71.25
Membership	\$73.64	\$100.75	\$141.82	\$84.86	\$0.00	\$84.86	\$100.00
Publicity	\$0.00	\$54.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Phone	(\$79.24)	\$282.20	\$33.72	\$238.42	(\$158.94)	\$79.48	\$90.00
P.O. Box	\$52.00	\$54.00	\$28.00	\$56.00	\$0.00	\$56.00	\$56.00
Postage	\$123.05	\$0.00	\$43.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Web Site	<u>\$35.00</u>	<u>\$375.14</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$262.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$262.00</u>	<u>\$262.00</u>
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$692.29</b>	<b>\$2,478.39</b>	<b>\$1,104.17</b>	<b>\$923.95</b>	<b>(\$158.94)</b>	<b>\$765.01</b>	<b>\$909.25</b>
<b><i>Events</i></b>							
Annual Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
All Member Meeting	\$89.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Book Event	(\$21.75)	\$28.72	\$13.92	\$26.45	\$0.00	\$26.45	\$0.00
Holiday Party	\$0.00	\$37.80	\$89.20	\$146.24	\$0.00	\$146.24	\$150.00
Bunco Event	\$0.00	\$45.31	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Programs	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$93.75	\$120.56	\$0.00	\$120.56	\$200.00
Sidewalk Sale	\$0.00	\$65.00	\$104.80	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
State of the Village	\$45.00	\$0.00	(\$360.14)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Government	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$123.76</u>	<u>\$265.83</u>	<u>(\$265.83)</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total Events</b>	<b>\$162.33</b>	<b>\$186.83</b>	<b>\$115.29</b>	<b>\$634.08</b>	<b>(\$265.83)</b>	<b>\$368.25</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>
<b>Voter Information</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$146.20</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$203.52</b>	<b>(\$100.00)</b>	<b>\$103.52</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**LWV Wilmette Operating Budget Fiscal Year  
July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012 continued**

<b>Conventions</b>							
National	\$0.00	\$2,321.05	\$935.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
State	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$780.16	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
Cook County	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$70.00
Legislative Day/Briefing	<u>\$133.93</u>	<u>\$130.00</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<b>Total Conventions</b>	\$133.93	\$2,451.05	\$1,745.46	\$0.00	\$285.00	\$285.00	\$2,670.00
<b>Dona-</b>							
<b>tions</b>	<u>\$150.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	<u>\$575.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$575.00</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,500.67</b>	<b>\$8,839.47</b>	<b>\$5,909.24</b>	<b>\$5,071.04</b>	<b>\$105.52</b>	<b>\$5,176.56</b>	<b>\$7,225.37</b>
<b>Revenue-Expense</b>	<b>\$1,197.33</b>	<b>(\$3,264.47)</b>	<b>\$185.76</b>	<b>\$826.46</b>	<b>\$409.48</b>	<b>\$1,235.94</b>	<b>(\$1,325.37)</b>

**LWV Wilmette Education Fund Budget**  
**Fiscal Year July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012**

	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Actual	YTD 7/1/2010- 5/1/2011	EST. 5/2/2011- 6/30/2011	2010- 2011 Total (EST.)	2011-2012 Budget
<b>Revenue:</b>							
Member Contributions	1,700.00	845.00	895.00	460.00	0.00	460.00	1,000.00
Profit Share	0.00	42.04	98.77	0.00	95.00	95.00	40.00
Interest	<u>0.00</u>	<u>107.52</u>	<u>1.71</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2.00</u>	<u>2.00</u>	<u>2.00</u>
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	1,700.00	994.56	995.48	460.00	97.00	557.00	1,042.00
<b>Programs:</b>							
<i>Student Government</i>							
Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense	0.00	0.00	324.48	550.58	265.83	816.41	900.00
Net	0.00	0.00	(324.48)	(550.58)	(265.83)	(816.41)	(900.00)
<i>Women's History Lunch</i>							
Revenue	225.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net	225.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>State of the Village</i>							
Revenue	630.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense	491.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net	138.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Communication/Fundraising</i>							
Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense	0.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net	0.00	(25.00)	(25.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Other Voter's Services</i>							
Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense	75.00	220.95	238.26	245.04	100.00	345.04	300.00
Net	(75.00)	(220.95)	(238.26)	(245.04)	(100.00)	(345.04)	(300.00)
<i>Our Climate Matters</i>							
Revenue	9,490.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense	8,599.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net	890.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Consensus Meetings</i>							
Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense	94.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Net	(94.50)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(100.00)
<i>Other Expenses</i>							
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	(23.75)	0.00	(23.75)	23.75
<b>PMP:</b>							
LWV-US	1,222.12	1,296.00	1,082.30	840.87	280.29	1,121.16	1,132.50
LWV-IL	<u>564.00</u>	<u>611.00</u>	<u>490.75</u>	<u>509.63</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>509.63</u>	<u>509.62</u>
Total	1,786.12	1,907.00	1,573.05	1,350.50	280.29	1,630.79	1,642.12
<b>Revenues-Expenses</b>	999.17	(1,158.39)	(1,165.31)	(1,709.87)	(549.12)	(2,258.99)	(1,876.37)

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2011-2012 NOMINATED SLATE**

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NOMINEE</u>	<u>TERM</u>
Co-Presidents	Libby Bankoff	2012
	Georgia Gebhardt	2012
Vice President	Therese Steinken	2012
Treasurer	Susan Morrison	2012
Secretary	Dorothy Speidel	2012
Events	Andrea Ventrell	2013
Voter Services	Trudy Gibbs	2013
Web Master	Beth Nyhan	2012
Membership	Jan Peterson	2012
Student Government	Lali Watt	2012
	Saima Abbasi	2013
Publicity	Trish Nealon	2013
Elected Directors at Large	Mari Terman	2013
	Susan Witz	2013
	Toni Stapel	2013
	Gretchen Crowder	2013
	Joyce Pollack	2013
Appointed Directors at Large	Cinda Axley	2013
	Jae Choi Kim	2012
	Nancy Canafax	2012
	Judy Mandel	2013

**OFF-BOARD POSITIONS**

Bulletin Editor	Dale Cohodes	2012
E-Mail Manager	Deena Mitchell	2013

**2011-2012 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Deena Mitchell, Chairperson; Saima Abbasi; Dorothy Speidel; Leslie Weyhrich

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Nyhan, Dorothy Speidel, Cinda Axley, Deena Mitchell, Chairperson

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COOK COUNTY**  
**Final Report from the Study Committee on**  
**Cook County Government Special Purpose Funds**  
**Dated March 28, 2011**

At the May 17, 2010 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Cook County, the delegates authorized that a study be undertaken of the role of Special Purpose Funds in Cook County government. This is the report from the members of the Study Committee: Nancy Clark, Betty Hayford, Karin Hribar, Priscilla Mims (chair), Donna Moore, Barbara Pasquinelli, Jura Scharf, and Cynthia Schilsky.

### **OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY**

This report is divided into the following sections: (A) What the Study Committee Learned; (B) Steps taken by the Study Committee; (C) Observations; and (D) Concerns. The Study Committee's concerns all fall under the issue of whether there is sufficient oversight of Special Purpose Funds. The Study Committee is not recommending that a new position be adopted at this time. Rather, the Study Committee believes that further action regarding the concerns in Section D can be taken under the existing LWVCC position in *Where We Stand*. The budget process should (1) be transparent, (2) be timely, (3) reflect oversight by the Commissioners of County departments throughout the year, and (4) utilize appropriate benchmarks for assessment.

### **A. WHAT THE STUDY COMMITTEE LEARNED**

#### **General Background**

- Special Purpose Funds are special accounts established by state statute or county ordinance to receive revenues from specific sources and to spend those revenues for specific purposes. Many of the Special Purpose Funds have been authorized by state statute and apply to all counties in Illinois. There are also some Special Purpose Funds that have been established by Cook County ordinance passed by the County Board and apply solely to Cook County.
- The Study Committee looked at 30 Special Purpose Funds contained in the 2010 County budget.
- In contrast to Special Purpose Funds, Cook County also has accounts that are General Funds, with sources from many different revenue streams, including property taxes and fees that are not designated to go into Special Purpose Funds.
- Some of the Special Purpose Funds date back to the 1980's. There have been several new ones, such as for the Assessor, Medical Examiner, and Health & Hospitals System, which have been set up by the County Board in the last year.
- The source of funding for most of the Special Purpose Funds are fees charged for providing county services, such as for the recording of deeds. The sources for a few of the Funds are taxes, such as the Motor Fuel Tax, collected and remitted by the State. The Election Fund receives a portion of the property tax revenues as designated by ordinance. In the case of the new Fund for the Health & Hospitals System, the revenues will come from patient fees received during fiscal 2011 in excess of the amount of those fees that are included as part of the revenue estimate from the System in the 2011 budget and which are designated to go into the General Funds. Thus, a portion of the patient fees received will go into General Funds with no restriction on spending. Once the revenue estimate has been reached, any remaining fees collected will go into this new Special Purpose Fund to be used solely for the Health & Hospitals System.
- There are also Special Purpose Funds which have been set up for Annuity & Benefits, Bond & Interest, and Grants. For this Study, the Committee did not consider those Special Purpose Funds or the Election Fund.
- The total budgeted expenditures for 2010 under the 30 other Special Purpose Funds studied were \$126 million. The total budgeted expenditures under General Funds were \$2.338 billion. So while the Special

Purpose Funds studied are not a large portion of the 2010 total operating budget of \$3.056 billion, the Special Purpose Funds are nevertheless a significant amount.

- In some cases (such as for the Treasurer, Clerk of the Court, and Recorder of Deeds), expenditures from the Special Purpose Funds are a large portion of the total expenditures by an elected official under the budget.
- When statements are made that an elected official has cut a certain percentage or amount of the official's budget, those statements usually only apply to the official's expenditures from General Funds. For example, for the 2010 budget, departments and elected officials were asked to cut their budgets by 5%. The Recorder of Deeds did so under the General Funds, but the budgeted expenditures under the Recorder's Special Purpose Funds went up by almost the same dollar amount. While the Clerk of the Court's General Funds' budget in 2010 decreased by \$0.37 million, budgeted appropriations under Special Purpose Funds increased by \$5.67 million.

### **Fund Balances**

- Any revenues received in a Special Purpose Fund that are not spent in a budget year remain in that Fund as a Fund Balance that can be utilized in future years.
- As of November 30, 2009, there were significant Fund Balances (either over \$1 million or in comparison to yearly expenditures) that were not utilized for the 2010 budget in the Special Purpose Funds for Animal Control, Geographic Information Systems, Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund, TB Sanitarium District, Treasurer's Tax Sales Automation Fund, Chief Judge's Dispute Resolution Fund, Adult Probation/Probation Service Fee, Social Service/Probation and Court Services Fund, and Children's Waiting Room Revenue Fund.
- In the event that actual expenditures from a Special Purpose Fund exceed the total revenues and Fund Balance in that Fund, monies from the General Funds will be "borrowed" to cover those excess expenditures. It is expected that the General Funds will then be paid back by that Special Purpose Fund in future years.
- The following Special Purpose Funds had deficits as of November 30, 2009: Law Library, Juvenile Probation – Supplementary Officers Fund, and Capital Litigation Trust Fund (due to failure of the State to timely remit funds).

### **Information Technology Special Purpose Funds**

- There are at least 5 different Special Purpose Funds under the President, Treasurer, County Clerk, Recorder of Deeds, and Clerk of the Court that are for information technology systems.

## **B. STEPS TAKEN BY THE STUDY COMMITTEE**

- After reviewing information contained in different sections of the 2010 budget books and the authorizing statutes and ordinances, the Study Committee met with the County's Chief Financial Officer and Budget Director to obtain further information. The Committee also met with Cook County Commissioners Larry Suffredin and Bridget Gainer to discuss issues the Committee had identified pertaining to the Special Purpose Funds.
- The Study Committee then compiled information pertaining to the Special Purpose Funds in a chart that was furnished to all 17 County Commissioners with the hope that the Commissioners would find this information helpful as they prepared to review, debate and vote on the 2011 budget. This chart was also furnished to the President, Chief Financial Officer, and Budget Director. A copy of this chart may be found on the League web site, [cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org](http://cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org). (Click on "Special Purpose Funds Study/Chart of Special Purpose Funds" on the left-hand side of the home page. This "Final Report" is also available on the Web site.)

- Accompanying this chart was a letter to the Commissioners that asked the following questions:
  - If the Special Purpose Funds did not exist, would all the expenditures under the Special Purpose Funds be authorized under the General Funds? If not, should the County seek appropriate changes to the authorizing state law or County ordinance?
  - Where there are large Fund Balances, should the County seek whatever authorization is necessary to utilize the excess money for other priorities or reduce the fees being charged that produce the revenues for the Special Purpose Funds?
  - Is there sufficient review and oversight of the use of the Special Purpose Funds?
  - Does having separate Special Purpose Funds related to information technology under different elected officials hinder the County's efforts to have cost-efficient systems that easily interface with each other? If so, what can be done?
  - Is there a review procedure for determining whether a Special Purpose Fund continues to be needed and/or should be modified in some way?
- Members of the Study Committee observed the meetings to review the proposed 2011 budget to see whether there appeared to be more attention paid to the Special Purpose Funds.

### **C. OBSERVATIONS**

- In the last several years, there appears to have been little to no attention paid by the County Commissioners concerning the proposed expenditures from Special Purpose Funds during the meetings to review the proposed budget. Instead, almost all questions and discussion have centered on proposed expenditures from the General Funds.
- In the past, most of the Special Purpose Funds were authorized by state statute. In the last several years, the County Board has created a number of new Special Purpose Funds. During the review of the proposed 2011 budget, the Board created two new Special Purpose Funds, so the trend to add Special Purpose Funds appears to be continuing.
- One of the ways the President stated that the proposed 2011 budget had been balanced was by utilizing Special Purpose Funds to pay the costs of benefits for employees paid out of those Funds, and to place more employees and expenses, which qualify under the special purpose, under those Funds rather than utilize General Funds. This will, of course, reduce some of the Fund Balances.
- During the review of the proposed 2011 budget, Commissioners asked some questions concerning proposed expenditures under Special Purpose Funds and the Fund Balances, which has not been observed in prior years. The attention paid to the Special Purpose Funds this year may be due to the information provided by the Study Committee to Commissioners prior to the start of the budget review process.
- In response to our questions, County personnel and officials agreed that having separate Special Purpose Funds pertaining to automation and information technology under different elected officials has been a hindrance to creating cost efficient computer systems that easily interface with each other. During the review of the proposed 2011 budget, Commissioner John Fritchey proposed placing all information technology personnel currently under different departments in a single department under the auspices of the County's Chief Information Officer. There were some legal issues with this due to having separately-elected County officers, so the proposal was not approved. There likely would be other complications in trying to do so given the separate Special Purpose Funds that fund these employees and the hardware and software.

□ Departments with Special Purpose Funds have been able to cut expenses and reduce the number of employees paid under the General Funds without necessarily eliminating those expenses and employees if they can be transferred to the Special Purpose Funds. But not all departments are able to charge for their services and generate revenues that can be placed in a Special Purpose Fund. Those departments without Special Purpose Funds must make actual cuts.

#### **D. CONCERNS**

□ Even with the increased interest evidenced by Commissioners with their questions regarding Special Purpose Funds during the review of the 2011 proposed budget, there appears to be far less scrutiny of expenditures from Special Purpose Funds than from General Funds.

□ There is no systematic review of the continued need for and desirability of having any given Special Purpose Fund.

□ Similarly, there appears to be no systematic review by Commissioners of Fund Balances or the level of fees charged that go into the Special Purpose Funds. Of particular concern is the number of different fees that may be assessed in order to utilize the courts.

□ Revenues that are required to go into Special Purpose Funds are not available to be utilized for expenses that must be paid for out of General Funds. Do the functions and employee positions which are able to be paid out of Special Purpose Funds have a higher priority than those that had to be cut because there were not sufficient monies under the General Funds? This concern grows as we see that more Special Purpose Funds are being created.

□ In short, our concerns lie with whether there is sufficient oversight over Special Purpose Funds in Cook County and whether the existence of Special Purpose Funds obscures the process of setting priorities for all expenditures of County funds.