



BULLETIN

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE

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

lwwilmette.org

847-604-1207

League of Women Voters
of Wilmette

Volume 71, Number 4

May 2011

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT



LWVIL CONVENTION 2011

June 10-12

Holiday Inn, 5300 Touhy Avenue, Skokie

This year's State Convention is right in our own backyard, and our Wilmette League, along with the other North Shore Leagues, is hosting the convention. As such, we will be helping make sure everything goes smoothly by providing volunteers to help with hospitality, registration, greeting people, and doorkeepers. Volunteers only need to help in two- or three-hour time slots, and are rewarded for their hard work by receiving free admission to any of the convention workshops. The final list of workshops has not been confirmed, but the tentative list includes redistricting, a nuts & bolts of League, and many other exciting topics.

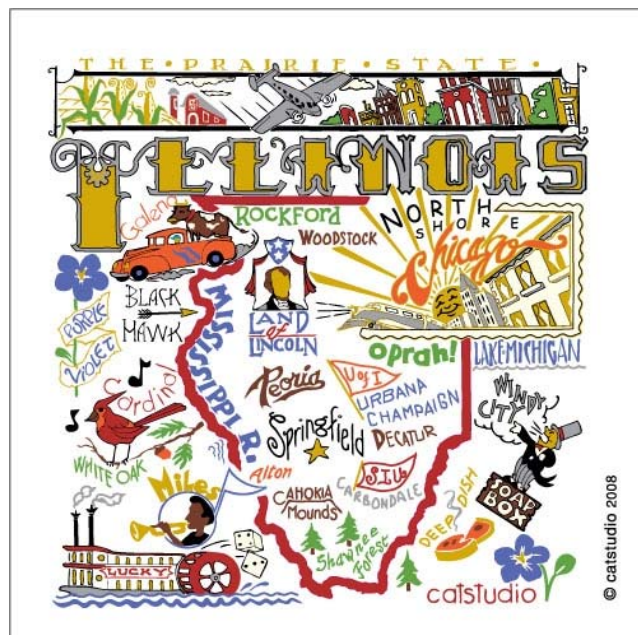
Interested in volunteering? Email Therese Steinken (tmsteinken@gmail.com) or call her at 847-251-3818, and let her know which day (Friday, Saturday, or Sunday) and if you would prefer a morning, afternoon, or early evening time slot.

All league members are welcome to attend either or both of these special events:

Thursday, June 9, 8:00 pm
"The Outgoing Tide"
at Northlight Theatre, \$30

Sunday, June 12, 1:30 pm
Illinois Holocaust Museum
group tour, \$15

Look for more information regarding these two events in future emails.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

If you can believe it, the end of the League year is fast approaching. As such, a date for our Annual (year-end) Meeting has been set. This year-end **all-membership** meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7th at 7:00 pm at the home of Mari Terman , 941 Sheridan Road, Wilmette.

In preparation for the Annual Meeting our nominating committee comprising Cinda Axley, Beth Nyhan, Dorothy Speidel and Deena Mitchell (Chair) has done an amazing job of building a slate of Board Officers and Directors. Our By-Laws Committee (Therese Steinken and Beth Nyhan) has been working hard to develop recommended relevant revisions to our by-laws. Our Budget Committee is in formation. And, of course, each of our Directors is preparing a report to the membership on what was (and was not) accomplished this past year.

It is important to keep in mind that the direction of the new League year will be set at this meeting. So, please mark your calendars and plan to attend and participate in the direction-setting.

We do know one direction we will be asked to take in the coming year. That is, at the directive of the LWVUS (National), local and state Leagues across the United States will be asked to discuss the role of the federal government in public education with the goal of coming to consensus on a number of questions. This study will be on the federal role in pre-K through grade 12 public education and will be limited to issues of equity, funding and standards/assessment. For our collective edification, the National Study Committee has produced the first of several background papers about public education issues. Included in this edition of the *Bulletin* is a background paper that provides an historical perspective on the federal role in public education (see page 5-6. I encourage you to read it. Get informed!

Finally, as you may recall, in last month's *Message From the Board*, Georgia urged all of us to advocate for our League's position in favor of the passage of the District 39 referendum. She literally begged us to become involved in the pro referendum campaign. She challenged us to change 'YES WE CAN!' to 'YES WE DID!' Well, we did it! We stepped up. In Georgia's terms, YES WE DID!

Good for us!
Libby

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VOTER SERVICES

Candidate Forums:

Sunday, February 27, 2011

New Trier School Board

2:00 - 3:00 pm 85 Attended

Wilmette District 39 School Board

3:15 – 4:15 pm 56 Attended

Sunday, March 6, 2011

Wilmette Village Trustees

2:00 – 3:00 pm 77 Attended

Voter Registration:

New Trier

February 15-16

Total 107

Regina Dominican

February 23

Total 13

Library

Saturday, March 5.

Total 2

(Also, we were able to answer questions from additional voters.)

Upcoming:

New Trier, Senior Day May 27

Voter’s Guide

500 were printed and delivered to the North Shore Community Bank, the Wilmette Library, all Wilmette senior centers, Rec Center, Centennial Park, Panera, Ridgeview restaurant, and the Glenview League. Winnetka and Glencoe Leagues decided to use just the New Trier pages which Dale Cohodes made into a separate document for them to print out.

The Voter Guide was also on our website.

**Dorothy Speidel
Voter Services Chair**

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May 3

Guided Visit to a Cook County Board of Commissioners Meeting, Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark, Chicago, 9:45 a.m.

May 17

Board Meeting, Wilmette Public Library, 1:00 p.m.

May 22

One Book, Everybody Reads – Colum McCann’s “Let The Great World Spin,” Wilmette Public Library, 2:00 p.m.

June 7

Annual Board Meeting, at the home of Mari Terman, 941 Sheridan Road, 7:00 p.m.

June 10-12

LWVIL Convention, Holiday Inn, North Shore Chicago, 5300 W. Touhy, Skokie

LWV — COOK COUNTY

The Annual Meeting of the LWV of Cook County will be held on Monday, May 16. Registration will take place at 9:30 am, followed by the business meeting at 10 am.

During the business meeting, besides voting on new officers and a budget for the next fiscal year, attendees will have a chance to learn more about activities of the Cook County League, including the recent study of Special Purpose Funds in the County Budget, and the four working Interest Groups, developing expertise in the areas of Cook County Budget and Governance, Juvenile Justice, Health and Hospital Services, and the Forest Preserve.

A box lunch will be served at 11:30, along with a program on Cook County Board issues presented by two Commissioners, Bridget Gainer and Tim Schneider.

All members of the local leagues in Cook County are also members of the Cook County LWV, and are encouraged to attend.

If you are interested in being a voting delegate from your league at the meeting contact your local league President.

There will also be an opportunity to bid on some interesting items as part of the Silent Auction, a fundraising effort for LWVCC that helps to maintain PMP levels at the same rate they have been for several years.

Registration and meeting materials are available online at www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org.

Op Ed

Our League ROCKS!!! We did something that was important.

We, of course, knew the D39 referendum request was a significant enough community issue that it SHOULD be studied. The great thing is – we actually did it. We took the time and expended the energy to acquire the relevant data. At the ensuing Consensus Meeting, following serious discussion by so many of our members, we came to consensus that we do support this referendum.

Once we had a position, we moved into action and energetically advocated for our position. We publicized our 'PRO' position wherever we could. We joined forces with the already formed, highly organized and well led pro referendum organization, *Support Wilmette Schools* – helping in any way we could.

And, as we all now know, the overwhelming majority of our fellow Wilmette residents came to a pro referendum position - for the referendum passed by a 2-1 margin.

I am proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters of Wilmette. WE ROCK!

Libby Bankoff

Role Of Federal Government In Public Education: Historical Perspectives

By Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins and Margaret Hawkins Hill

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 Have We Been?

From the very beginning of our Republic, a well-educated citizenry was thought to be essential to protect liberty and the general welfare of the people. Even before the Constitution of the United States was established, the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 included responsibilities of the nation for an education system. Education has long been considered a national concern by the federal government. Through federal action, education has been encouraged and financially supported from the first Northwest Ordinance in 1787 to the present. Article 1, Section 8, of the Constitution granted Congress the power to lay and collect taxes to provide for the general welfare of the United States. It is under this "general welfare" clause that the federal government has assumed the power to initiate educational activity in its own right and to participate jointly with states, agencies and individuals in educational activities.

During the first century of the new nation, Congress granted more than 77 million acres of the public domain as an endowment for the support of schools through tracts ceded to the states for the support of public schools. In 1841, Congress passed an act that granted 500,000 acres to eight states and later increased grants to a total of 19 states. The federal government also granted money to states, such as distributions of surplus federal revenue and reimbursements for war expenses. Though Congress rarely prescribed that such funds be used only for schools, education continued to be one of the largest expenses for state and local governments, so the states used federal funds whenever possible.

Two Constitutional Amendments played an important role in public education. In 1791, the 10th Amendment stated, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Public education was not mentioned as one of those federal powers, and so historically has been delegated to the local and state governments.

In 1868, the 14th Amendment guaranteed rights to all citizens by stating "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens in the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law."

From colonial times through the early 19th century, before common schools became an established part of society, children were educated in an assortment of institutions and arrangements mostly supported by local entities. During the 19th century the federal government involvement in education included vocational training, land grants, and the establishment in 1867 of the Office of Education. The purpose of this office was to collect information on schools and teaching that would help states establish effective school systems.

The passage of the Second Morrill Act in 1890 gave the Office of Education responsibility for administering support for the original system of land-grant colleges and universities. Vocational education became the next major area of federal aid to schools with the 1917 Smith-Hughes Act followed by the 1946 George-Barden Act focusing on agriculture, industrial arts and home economics training for high school students.

World War II led to a significant expansion of federal support for education. The Lanham Act of 1941 and the Impact Aid laws of 1950 eased the burden on communities affected by the presence of military and other federal installations by making payments to school districts. In 1944 the GI Bill authorized postsecondary education assistance that would ultimately send nearly 8 million WWII veterans to college.

The Supreme Court handed down the landmark decision *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, declaring state laws that established separate public schools based on race unconstitutional. In 1958, Congress passed the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) in response to the Soviet launch of Sputnik. This legislation included support to teachers through graduate fellowships to improve the teaching of science, mathematics and foreign languages.

The anti-poverty and civil rights laws of the 1960s and 1970s dramatically increased the role of the federal government in public education. Laws passed included Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibiting discrimination based on race, sex and disability.

How Did We Get Here?

In 1965 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA Pub.L.89-1- Stat 27, 20 U.S.C. ch 70) launched a comprehensive set of programs including Title I program of federal aid to the disadvantaged. The Act funds primary and secondary education, while explicitly forbidding the establishment of a national curriculum. As mandated in the Act, the funds are authorized for professional development, instructional materials and resources to support educational programs and parental involvement promotion. The Act was originally authorized through 1970; however, the government has authorized the Act every five to ten years since its enactment. The current reauthorization of ESEA is called the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). NCLB also allows military recruiters to access 11th and 12th grade students' names, addresses and telephone listings when requested.

In 1980, Congress established the Department of Education as a Cabinet level agency. Then, for the next 12 years under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, education was a priority issue. The religious and private sectors were involved as well, with introductions of tax credits, parental involvement and vouchers. Additionally, in 1982, twenty-five bills were introduced to improve math and science instruction, but all failed in Congress. The tuition tax-credit was proposed for mainly religious schools but broadened to private school tuition in 1983. This too, failed. In 1983, the publication of *A Nation At Risk* brought the competitive nature of education to the forefront, warning that the United States no longer held the education edge when compared to the rest of the world.

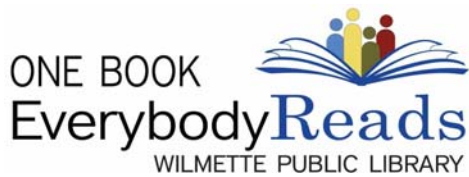
In 1989, President George H. W. Bush signaled public school choice to be a "high priority." He also formed a task force to study Hispanic education and called for an "Indian education bill of rights" to help improve education for Native Americans. Drug education also came to the forefront during his Administration. In 1991, President Bush formed the National Education Goals Panel to create a national assessment system to measure progress toward the national education goals for 2000. In that same year, Congress passed a bill to create a national council on education standards and testing, the purpose of which would be to study the feasibility and desirability of creating national standards and a national examination system for students.

During President Bill Clinton's administration, education achievement focused on the Goals 2000 competitive grants. School districts realized significant gains by using these funds. However, the grants were only awarded to those districts that had the resources to write the grants and study their implication.

President George W. Bush made education issues a priority. NCLB, as described above, was one of the first bills passed by Congress during his Administration.

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. 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 budgets.



For further information about Wilmette Public Library's 2011 **One Book, Everybody Reads** program, contact Barbara Goodman at bgoodman@wilmettelibrary.info or (847) 274-7784.

As part of its 2011 **One Book, Everybody Reads** program, the Wilmette Public Library presents a series of events related to **Let the Great World Spin**, the 2009 National Book Award winning novel by Colum McCann. For more information, visit www.wilmettelibrary.info/onebook or call (847) 256-6930.

May 3: Community members are invited to enjoy small tastings of "New York Street Food" provided by Corner Cooks/Jerry's. The program is limited to 30 participants; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. 7 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Wilmette Public Library Auditorium, 1242 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette.

May 5: Come for coffee, sweets and a discussion of Let the Great World Spin, led by one of the library's Adult Services librarians. 10 am. Link's Sweet Bean, 1141 Greenleaf, Wilmette.

May 12: Steve Bogira, author of Courtroom 302, will give an inside picture of the country's busiest criminal courthouse when he discusses "Criminal Courts, Chicago Style." Mr. Bogira has written for the *Chicago Tribune* and *the Chicago Reader* and is now the *Reader's* political editor. 7 pm. Wilmette Public Library Auditorium, 1242 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette.

May 17: A screening of the award-winning documentary, Man on Wire, will be held. The film portrays funambulist Philippe Petit's high wire walk between New York City's Twin Towers. 10:30 am. Wilmette Public Library Auditorium, 1242 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette.

May 22: Author Colum McCann will visit Wilmette to discuss his novel, Let the Great World Spin, winner of the 2009 National Book Award. Wilmette and Kenilworth residents who wish to attend may pick up a maximum of 2 free tickets at the library's Recent Arrivals desk beginning at 9:00 a.m. on April 30. Any remaining tickets will be available to non-residents beginning May 14. No phone reservations will be taken. Ticketed seats will be held until 10 minutes before the event; at that time, any unfilled seats will be open to the public. Borders Books and Music in Wilmette will have books available for purchase and signing at the event. 2 pm. Wilmette Park District's Community Recreation Center, 3000 Glenview Road, Wilmette.

One Book, Everybody Reads is funded by the Friends of the Wilmette Public Library. Community partners include Borders Books & Music, Corner Cooks/Jerry's, League of Women Voters of Wilmette, Link's Sweet Bean, Rotary Club of Wilmette, Rotary Club of Wilmette Harbor, Trib Local, Village of Kenilworth, Village of Wilmette, Wilmette Beacon, Wilmette Chamber of Commerce and Wilmette Park District.

INTERESTING WOMEN

In Our League

This month the *INTERESTING WOMEN in our League* piece focuses on a long time League member, Sharon Weingarten, who has been working as a volunteer teacher in American Samoa. The following article recently was published in the *Samoa News* and written by Jeff Hayner .

SHARON WEINGARTEN

Sharon Weingarten, who has been working with local teachers at various schools in the territory in association with the World Teach Organization, a Harvard University founded group, spoke recently to *Samoa News* saying how much she has enjoyed her stay here.

"It was a pleasure teaching here in American Samoa. There are other teachers here who work with the World Teach Organization as well... Alison Hurst, Katherine Smith, Caitlin Butler and Michael McVickers and they are wonderful teachers who have done a great job," said Weingarten.

For those not familiar with the World Teach group, Weingarten said, "World Teach offers the benefits of a well established volunteer organization, while providing more comprehensive, personalized support and training as a small NGO. In each of the programs, volunteers are placed in schools and host communities in developing countries that specifically request World Teach volunteers and would otherwise be unable to afford or locate qualified teachers.

Volunteers receive training, language preparation and field support, empowering them to make an impact that will last long after they leave. World Teach is an independent NGO registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Previously a student service organization at the University, World Teach is now a separate affiliate of the Center for International Development at Harvard University".



Katherine Smith and Sharon Weingarten are working as volunteer teachers at various schools in the territory through the World Teach Organization, which has sent volunteer teachers all around the globe. Including the territory, they are sent to places such as Bangladesh, Marshall Islands, Thailand, Rwanda, Chile and Namibia. They are pictured here at Fagaitua High School. [courtesy photo]

According to their website, World Teach partners with governments and other organizations in developing countries to provide volunteer teachers to meet local needs and promote responsible global citizenship. World Teach is a non-profit non-governmental organization founded by a group of Harvard students in 1986 in response to the need for educational assistance in developing countries. It also addressed a growing interest among people in the U.S. and elsewhere to serve, teach and learn as volunteers overseas. Since its inception, World Teach has placed thousands of volunteer educators in communities throughout Asia, Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe and the Pacific. To find out more about World Teach go to its website at www.worldteach.org.



League of Women Voters of Cook County

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INVITES ALL COOK COUNTY LEAGUE MEMBERS AND GUESTS to the**

2011 LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING

LUNCHEON

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011

9:30am-1pm

University Center – 525 S. State St - Chicago

Program

Cook County Commissioners Panel Discussion

Featuring: Commissioner Bridget Gainer (D-10th District)

Commissioner Timothy Schneider (R-15th District)

- 9:30am Registration – Coffee - Silent Auction
- 10-11:30am Annual Business Meeting
- 11:30-12n Box Lunch
- 12-1:00pm Program – Commissioner Panel Discussion

Cost: \$35 per person

RSVP by May 10

LWVCC Annual Meeting – May 16, 2011

PLEASE INCLUDE NAMES OF ALL ATTENDEES.

Name(s) _____ League _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ I will be serving as a Delegate from my League

Make check payable to LWVIL Education Fund and send to

LWVCC Annual Meeting, 332 South Michigan Ave., Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60604

Enclosed is a check for:

\$ _____ for _____ reservations at \$35 each.

I cannot attend but my contribution of \$ _____ is enclosed.