



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 70, Number 7

September 2010

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

FALL 2010 A Busy Time for the Wilmette LWV

Candidate Forums

WHAT	WHO	WHEN	WHERE
10 th Congressional District	Dan Seals/Robert Dold	7 p.m., Wed., September 22	Glenbrook South H S
17 th State Representative District	Daniel Biss/Hamilton Chang	2 p.m., Sun., September 26	Wilmette Village Council Chamber
13 th District Cook County	Larry Suffredin/Linda Thompson LaFianza/George Milkowski	2 p.m., Sun., October 3	Beth Emet Synagogue Evanston
18 th State Representative	No 18th debate if Robyn Gable is unopposed	3:30 p.m. , Sun., October 3	Beth Emet Synagogue Evanston
9 th Congressional District	Jan Shakowsky/Joel Pollak	2 p.m., Sun., October 10	Niles North High School Auditorium

Voter Registration

@ Wilmette Library: Sunday, September 19 and Sunday October 3, 1p.m.—5 p.m.
Last day to register for November 2 election is October 5

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

August 18 marked the date when Tennessee State Representative Harry Burn listened to his mother and voted for the suffrage amendment to the Constitution. **August 26** was when the ratification was certified. Since 1971 Congress has designated this date as Women's Equality Day.

Those suffragettes, as you may know, provided the inspiration for the League of Women Voters of today. We are no longer being arrested and force-fed for pushing the right to vote, but the tradition of first study, and then advocacy continues. It is a quaint notion that one should be informed by facts before broadcasting views to the nation. Still, the League insists on this stodgy process, even in the face of talk radio, cable news and Twitter. For those of you seeking opportunities to become informed on current issues, the coming year will provide a number of options:

- 1) "Redistricting: A Training Opportunity," which will inform members about the 2011 redistricting process. For specific information, look for the flyer in this bulletin. Event is September 15, RSVP by September 7.
- 2) USLWV Convention 2010 approved a study of the "Federal Role in Public Education." This study will focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards, and/or governance relationships among all levels of government. The national committee is in formation now. Locals will participate in this study later this year.
- 3) Also approved by the 2010 Convention delegates was a study of the impact of privatization of governmental services. Early information indicates that this study will begin after the study on public education. So more to follow.

These studies, which are at the heart of the League, plus many other program opportunities, will be available throughout this year. We invite each of you to join us for study of crucial issues, for community service through voter registration and forums, and "just for fun" events too!

Questions about the League and/or our events? Visit our website at www.lwvwilmette.org.

—Georgia

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

DIRECTORS

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

2011 Nominating Committee

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



League of Women Voters of Illinois

Special Invitation: August 19, 2010

Website: www.lwvil.org

Redistricting
Training: Sept. 15

RSVP by Sept. 7

For more information
contact:

Redistricting Project
Coordinator
Mary Schaafsma
marys@lwvil.org
312.939.5935 x-39

Meet Our
Project Coordinator



Mary Schaafsma
marys@lwvil.org

Redistricting and the LWVIL

- Redistricting remains a top priority for the LWVIL.
- We continue to devote time and resources to this important issue.
- As you know, Illinois will be redistricted in 2011.
- We want all League members to be informed about the process.
- Outreach to local League communities is a critical part of our public education campaign.

JOIN US

Redistricting: A Training Opportunity

Wednesday, September 15, 2010 * 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

League of Women Voters of Illinois
332 South Michigan Avenue • Suite 1150
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Why We Need You to Attend the LWVIL Training:

- Hear more about why this issue is still so critical
- Listen to people who have been involved in prior redistricting, including **Virginia Martinez of MALDEF**, recipient of the LWVIL 2010 Citizen of Action Award
- Learn how you can educate both your league and community
- Leave prepared to make a public education presentation
- Receive your LWVIL Redistricting Toolkit

Refreshments will be provided

THE GLENVIEW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Invites you to an evening with BETH COULSON

Beth is a long-time member and supporter of the GLWV. She is the State Representative for the 17th District and will be departing the Illinois Legislature at the end of the year. Please join your fellow Leaguers for dinner and conversation on: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at 6:30 PM, Wagner Farm, 1510 Wagner Rd., Glenview, IL. The cost is \$17.00 per person. In order to accommodate everyone, enclose your check made payable to the GLWV, and mail by September 10 to: Pam Petersen, 10459 Dearlove Rd., Glenview, IL 60025. Please direct questions to: Pame at pbp46@aol.com. (Tickets at the door will be \$25)

COOK COUNTY PRESENTATION ON HEALTH AND HOSPITALS SYSTEM

A primary mission of the League is to inform members about vital government functions. The Cook County LWV fulfilled this responsibility at a July 28 Lunch and Learn presentation on the Health and Hospitals System. HHS is a major part of Cook County Government activities, comprising about 29% of County expenditures and almost one-third of County personnel, over 7000 employees. This is the third largest public health system in the country.

Details of the work of the Independent HHS Board and its new Strategic Plan were presented by Warren Batts, Chairman of the Board, and William Foley, CEO of the Health and Hospitals System. They pointed out that the system provides medical services to Cook County residents, mostly without insurance. Currently the system includes three hospitals and a number of primary care clinics, receiving more than 600,000 patient visits this year. Total expenditures for health and hospital services are about \$1 billion this year.

The Independent Board was created in February 2008 to remove the system from oversight by the County President and put it under professional management. After gathering extensive information about how the system used its resources, the Board developed a strategic plan to respond to an anticipated increase in patients through creating a patient centered system with more outpatient services better utilizing the funds currently maintaining three hospitals. They are also committed to improving patient care and service in the system, reducing the long waits and becoming more efficient through better staff training and utilization of electronic records. The newly created and expanded clinics will provide better access to care, and the County will develop partnerships with other providers to better coordinate primary and specialty care. Recognizing the value of this independent oversight, the County Board at the end of July made the Board, initially a three year experiment, permanent.

The proposed reorganization of the County health services has come about after a decade of effort to bring about reforms in County government and the provision of vital County services. The Cook County League encourages this reform effort, observing County government activities and meeting with County officials to support steps to make government more efficient and cost effective.

As well as observing and reporting on County Board meetings, the League has observers at the meetings of the Independent HHS Board. LWVCC also has an Interest Group which focuses on the Cook County Health and Hospitals System. The group is currently reviewing the Strategic Plan to determine further action the League can take. Anyone interested in joining the Cook County HHS interest group would be welcome and should contact the League office at cook@lwvil.org or (312)939-5935 x 27.

BOOKLIST FROM THE BOOK STALL

There is a second attachment to the e-mail you received with this *Bulletin*. It is the list of recommended books from Roberta Rubin which was distributed at our Summer Book Luncheon.

LAKE MICHIGAN INTER-LEAGUE

The Lake Michigan League of Women Voters will hold its Annual Meeting Friday and Saturday, October 8 and 9, 2010, in Manitowoc, WI.

Friday's program of the LMLWV Annual Meeting includes a visit to the Point Beach Energy Center followed by dinner and keynote speaker Phillip Moy, Invasive Species Specialist.

Following breakfast on Saturday, Manitowoc Mayor Justin Nickels will address the group about the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. The mayor's presentation will be followed by a membership meeting. Lunch will include a talk by Jim Knickelbine, Director of Woodland Dunes.

LWV members are invited to join the LMLWV members from Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana for these informative sessions. If you have an interest in the environmental issues facing Lake Michigan, please consider attending a part of or all of the Annual Meeting.

The LMLWV Annual Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 4601 Calumet Avenue, Manitowoc, WI starting at 1:00 Friday, October 8.

For more details or to make reservations, call your local LWV president or check the web site: www.lmlwv.org. Space is limited and reservations are required.

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all the members who sent in their membership renewal forms and checks. If you have not already done so, please remember to renew. You can find a membership renewal form included with this *Bulletin* on page 8 or complete one on the website at www.lwvwilmette.org. As a reminder, our membership year runs from July 1 to June 30.

We'd like to extend a special welcome to new members, Stephanie Phelan and Jan Barshis. We are delighted that they have joined the organization and look forward to working with them.

COOK COUNTY ONLINE VOTERS' GUIDE FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

The League of Women Voters of Cook County has decided to participate in the LWVUS Vote411 Online Voters' Guide for the November election. We hope to have the Guide ready to go online by October 1, prior to the start of early voting.

The new online voters' guide, which is a new addition to the Leagues' Vote 411.org website, will allow us to cover the Cook County races and to publish an online voters' guide in an easy to use electronic format. We plan to include all candidates running in Cook County in the following races: President, Assessor, Clerk, Sheriff, Treasurer, Commissioners in all 17 districts, Board of Review – 1st district and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. We will develop the questions to be used in the guide and, in doing so, would like your input of any questions your league may have for the candidates in any of the listed races. If you do have questions, we must have them by Monday, August 23 in order to incorporate them into the guide.

We will not have any televised debates for county wide elections this year. We hope that as a part of your local league election plans, you will be able to hold local debates for your candidates for Cook County Commissioner. We can provide you with contact info for the candidates and questions that can be used for such debates. Please let us know of any plans that you make that will include any Cook County candidates.

We look forward to hearing from you with any questions you may have about the voters' guide, your questions for the candidates and notice of your plans that include Cook County candidates. You can reach us at: Sue Kravis, 847-966-7743, suekravis@comcast.net or Betty Rosenblum, 847-498-0350, b.rosenblum@comcast.net.

Sue Kravis and Betty Rosenblum
League of Women Voters – Cook County
Voter Service Co-chairs

League of Student and Government Leaders

We have renamed the Student Government program to the League of Student and Government Leaders. This was done to clearly distinguish it from the student council and pique the interest of junior high students and their parents.

Plans are well under way for our newly renamed, but long standing League of Student and Government Leaders program. Eighth graders from four Wilmette schools and their parents will gather at Wilmette Junior High on September 30th to kickoff this years program by learning exactly what each elected board does for our community.

During October and November, students will meet with our local elected officials and department heads from District 39, District 37, the Village of Wilmette, Wilmette Public Library, and Wilmette Park District. Together, they will explore what problems these organizations are grappling with, what is working and what is not. The student leaders will learn how to run effective meetings using Roberts Rules of Order, how to make persuasive presentations to further their point of view, and how to make decisions collectively.

Finally, after considerable preparation, students will participate in mock board meetings where they will take on the roles of their adult mentors to debate and discuss the topics they selected. These meetings are fascinating, fast paced affairs and some of them are televised on community access television. Look out for our latest TV stars this Fall! We think you will be impressed by their knowledge and skills!

—Lali Watt

CALENDAR

September 19	Voter Registration at Wilmette Public Library, 1:00 – 5:00
September 21	Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Wilmette Public Library
September 22	10 th Congressional District Candidate Forum, Glenbrook South H.S., 7:00 p.m.
September 26	17 th State Rep. District Candidate forum, Wilmette Village Council Chamber, 2:00 p.m.
October 3	Voter Registration at Wilmette Public Library, 1:00 – 5:00
October 3	13 th Cook County Candidate Forum, Beth Emet Synagogue, 2:30 p.m.
October 3	18 th State Rep District Candidate Forum, Beth Emet Synagogue, 4:30 p.m.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM: July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

_____ You have my permission to publish all the above in the Wilmette League Directory (available to League members only).
Please do not publish (check all that apply): _____ Phone number _____ Email address _____ Spouse's name

Note: Unless requested, due to environmental and budget concerns all Wilmette League mailings will be sent via e-mail. _____ I do not have access to e-mail and request that all mailings be sent to me via U.S. Mail.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (not tax-deductible)

Membership dues provide membership privileges at all levels of League: local (Wilmette), Cook County (LWVCC), State (LWVIL), and National (LWVUS).

Individual Member: \$65 Renewing New \$ _____

2nd Household Member: \$35 Renewing New \$ _____

Senior Membership: \$55 Renewing New \$ _____

Please consider making an additional (non-deductible) contribution \$ _____

Your check should be made payable to: LWV-Wilmette. Total \$ _____

CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION FUND (Fully tax-deductible)

The Education Fund is the League's educational organization and has a separate 501(c) (3) incorporation status. These funds are used for our educational projects, e.g., voter's guide, candidate forums, the student government project, etc.

Education Fund Donation (any amount): \$ _____

Your check should be payable to: LWV-Wilmette Education Fund

Mail all checks to: LWV-Wilmette, P.O. Box 432, Wilmette, IL 60091

PLEASE JOIN IN OUR VITAL COMMUNITY WORK!

I am willing to help with:

_____ Voter Service Work (e.g. candidate forums, voter registration)

_____ Membership/Recruitment Committee

_____ Monthly Programs Committee

_____ Publicity Committee (e.g. press releases, flyers, advertising)

_____ Student Government Project (Fall 2010)

_____ Host an event in your home

_____ One-time project (e.g. stuffing envelopes, Wilmette sidewalk sale)

_____ Annual LWVIL Phonathon (1 evening only)

_____ Representative for Cook County League

_____ Other: _____

The League of Women Voters of Wilmette is a nonpartisan organization which promotes political responsibility through citizens' informed and active participation in government. The League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy.