



# BULLETIN

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WILMETTE**

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

847-604-1207

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

Vol. 60, No. 8

September 2009

*DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT*

## TOUR OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE!

At the University of Chicago

WITH OUR OWN MARI TERMAN, DOCENT

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Lunch @ *Cedars Mediterranean Kitchen*  
in the Woodlawn Mall, followed by  
the tour of the museum

Meet at the home of Mari Terman  
941 Sheridan Rd, Wilmette  
At 11:00 a.m.

We'll have enough cars and drivers available

Reply to Dorothy Spedel by September 18  
[d-spedel@northwestern.edu](mailto:d-spedel@northwestern.edu)

847-989-4716

Please see article on page 4.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message — 2  
LWVW Officers — 2  
Legislative Interview — 3  
Student Government — 3

Cook County program — 3  
Cook County tour — 4  
Lake Michigan Annual Meeting — 4

Oriental Institute tour — 4  
Update from CC — 5  
Applause — 6  
Calendar — 6

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

As a member the League of Women Voters of Wilmette, you are also a member of the county, state and national leagues. You have been receiving e-mails recently from the state and national leagues regarding health care, gun control, contribution limits, and other issues. These e-mails are known as TFAs – Time for Action Alerts – and are meant to encourage members to write or call their local, state, or national representatives to support or oppose a particular issue or pending bill.

A recent TFA encouraged members to send Governor Quinn a letter requesting he veto HB 182, a bill that would allow a person to carry a concealed handgun into another person's home. Another TFA dealt with the CEDAW Treaty, which provides the fundamental framework for ending violence against women throughout the world. Adopted by the United Nations in 1979 and signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, the United States remains the only democracy in the world that has not ratified the CEDAW Treaty. As you can see, TFAs can directly affect us here in Illinois or have far-reaching effects worldwide.

Some members have questioned or are surprised by the League's taking a position on a political issue. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization. The League does not support political campaigns or parties, but we do support issues on which the League has taken a position after careful study and agreement. Local leagues may, of course, decline to take action at any governmental level, but may not take action in opposition to official League positions. Members may act as individuals in support of or in opposition to League positions, but they must make it clear that they are acting on their own behalf and not on behalf of the League.

To learn more about our League's positions on issues, please visit our website: [www.lwvwilmette.org](http://www.lwvwilmette.org). Click on "2008-09 Wilmette League Yearbook" and then click on "Current Positions."

Therese Steinken

### 2009-2010 ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Therese Steinken
VP/Programs	Georgia Gebhardt
VP/Membership	Libby Bankoff
Treasurer	Susan Morrison
Secretary/Programs	Dorothy Speidel

### 2009-2010 ELECTED DIRECTORS

<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	Dale Cohodes
Publicity	Judy Mandel
	Jan Peterson
Student Government	Deena Mitchell
	Lali Watt
Voter Services	Heidi Voorhees
	Ellen Falkof
Web Master	Beth Nyhan

**2010 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Cinda Axley, Chair, Dorothy Speidel & Beth Nyhan

### Illinois State Legislative Discussion with State Representative Julie Hamos

Are we likely to experience an increase in our State Income Tax? Is the RTA likely to go bankrupt? What is the status of the Illinois State Budget?

Do you want to hear informed responses to these and other timely and important issues/questions? Then, join us at our League's annual **Legislative Interview with State Representative Julie Hamos (18<sup>th</sup>) on Tuesday, September 22, beginning at 1:00 pm at the home of Mari Terman, 941 Sheridan Road, Wilmette.**

All Wilmette League members are invited to attend and participate in this informative experience. Learn what is happening and what is likely to happen in our State Assembly/Government. The format will be Q & A and discussion. Of course, refreshments will be served!

**RSVP to: Libby Bankoff 847-256-7509 or  
lbankoff@sbcglobal.net**

We will be holding similar interviews/discussions with State Senator Jeff Schoenberg (Monday, October 19, 7:30 pm) and with State Representative Beth Coulson (17<sup>th</sup>) (date and time TBD).

### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

Plans for this year's Student Government Program are underway, with all four junior high schools in Wilmette again participating. This program provides an opportunity for area 8th graders at the Wilmette Junior High School, Marie Murphy School, and St. Joseph's and St. Francis schools, to gain first-hand experience as to how local government works. League Chairs Deena Mitchell and Lali Watt were front and center at the WJHS Meet & Greet Day to raise awareness about this program. Many parents were very enthusiastic about what they learned.

State representative Julie Hamos has agreed to kick off the program again this year with a presentation the evening of September 30. The students will then each be assigned to a counterpart in local government from one of five areas: the Village of Wilmette; the Wilmette Park District; the Wilmette Public Library, School District 37, and School District 39. Students will participate in a series of workshops and attend a board meeting of their partner organization.

The program culminates before Thanksgiving, with the students conducting a mock board meeting, to be broadcast live on Local Access Channel 6.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A PRESENTATION BY THE  
COOK COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ENTITLED:

### **COOK COUNTY MATTERS – THE FACTS**

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND HOW  
IT SPENDS OUR MONEY.

FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION THERE WILL BE A SPIRITED LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS DISCUSSION. PLEASE BRING YOUR QUESTIONS!!

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009**

**11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**GLENVIEW POLICE STATION  
(NW CORNER OF LAKE AND SHERMER AVES.)**

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE ED FUNDS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GLENVIEW,  
EVANSTON, GLENCOE, PARK RIDGE, WILMETTE, & WINNETKA/NORTHFIELD/KENILWORTH

## **Tour of the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office**

**Where: 2121 W. Harrison Ave., Chicago**

Parking is available in front of the building – or in the lot across the street.

**When: Wednesday, September 30 or Tuesday, October 13**

Tour begins at 8:30am and lasts for 1-2 hours.

This is an opportunity to see what goes on in the office of the Cook County Medical Examiner. You can find out more about what this office does by checking the LWVCC website at [www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org](http://www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org) and following the links to the Cook County Organizational Chart under Where Does Cook County Spend our Money. If an autopsy is being conducted while we are there we will be able to observe.

**Each tour is limited to 20 persons and reservations are required. Please send your reservation request indicating preference for tour date to [cook@lwvil.org](mailto:cook@lwvil.org) or you can call reservations in to the League office and leave a message on the LWVCC voice mail at 312-939-5935 x27. If you call in your reservation please leave a phone number where you can be contacted. Reservations will be accepted in the order they are received. If the tours fill up you will be put on a waiting list and notified.**

## **2009 Lake Michigan League of Women Voters Annual Meeting**

**IF ANY MEMBERS OF OUR WILMETTE LEAGUE WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE WEEK-END MEETING IN SAUGATUCK , MICHIGAN PLEASE CONTACT THERESE STEINKEN [tmsteinken@gmail.com](mailto:tmsteinken@gmail.com) or 847-251-3818.**

October 2 – 3, 2009 (Friday and Saturday)

**A DETAILED SCHEDULE CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE:**

<http://lakemichiganlwv.wordpress.com/>

## **ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM TOUR!**

On September 20, our Wilmette League has a unique opportunity to have a tour of the Oriental Museum at the University of Chicago. Docent Mari Terman, long-time League member and former League president, will be our guide. Details of this event are on page 1 of this *BULLETIN*. To give members an idea of the ancient treasures we will see, here is the description of the Museum from its website:

The Oriental Institute Museum is a world-renowned showcase for the history, art, and archaeology of the ancient Near East. The museum displays objects recovered by Oriental Institute excavations in permanent galleries devoted to ancient Egypt, Nubia, Persia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Anatolia, and the ancient site of Megiddo, as well as rotating special exhibits.

## ***Update from the League of Women Voters of Cook County***

### **Congressman Quigley Speaks at 1<sup>st</sup> “Lunch & Learn” Fundraiser**

The first of a series of 3 low-cost luncheon fundraisers planned for this year to raise much-needed funds for the Cook County League's operations was a sold-out success. Former Cook County Commissioner Mike Quigley, who now represents the Illinois 5<sup>th</sup> District in Congress, told us that it is thanks to the League's efforts that led to single member districts that he was able to be elected as a Cook County Commissioner in 1998. At that time, there was no such thing as a “no” vote on the Cook County Board. Now that happens regularly, and across party lines.

In order to reform any government body, Congressman Quigley said that three questions should first be asked and answered. (1) What should the government be doing? (2) How should the government be doing it? (3) Who should be doing it within the government?

Cook County government was set up over 100 years ago when much of the county was unincorporated and the world was a very different place. It is no wonder that changes need to be made. Now we have a county highway department that is responsible for the upkeep (including snow plowing) of small stretches of roads that are scattered across the county. Similarly, the Cook County Sheriff has responsibility for providing police services for scattered areas within Cook County. Efficiencies are difficult to achieve in these cases unless the county contracts with adjoining local governments to provide these services, which Mr. Quigley has long advocated.

Congressman Quigley identified three main reasons that change is blocked: turf, power, and jobs. He also said he was concerned about both the lack of reformers who are willing to run and the electability of those who would be reformers. He distinguished progressives, those who may favor certain positions on key issues, from real reformers who are willing to take stands on tough issues, but even more importantly, who are willing to make the effort to craft reforms and build support to get the reforms passed.

The Congressman reminded us of Thomas Jefferson's statement that people tend to get the government that they deserve. He ended on a hopeful note, with his observation that in Cook County we may have only seen incremental change, but that it has begun.

### **Next “Lunch & Learn” Fundraiser on Nov. 10 Features Cook County Assessor James Houlihan**

Watch for an e-mail shortly to attend this \$30 luncheon at the DePaul Center downtown. Don't have e-mail? Call the League at 312-939-5935, ext. 27 and leave word that you're interested and how to contact you.

### **Poll Reporting Project Leads to Changes!**

Members from 13 of the local leagues in Cook County participated in the Poll Reporting Project for suburban Cook County in the November 2008 election. The Cook County League submitted a report of the results of our members' observations to and then met with Cook County Clerk David Orr who is responsible for suburban elections. Mr. Orr has responded in detail to our recommendations and concerns. Among other items, Mr. Orr has told us that his staff is looking into the possibility of having high school students help election judges set up and take down the heavy equipment. Checklists of opening and closing tasks with manual page number references have been developed for the election judges along the lines we suggested. Mr. Orr's staff has investigated the polling places that were identified on surveys as being inadequate and where possible, either different locations within the building or a new location altogether will be found. Copies of Mr. Orr's responses have been sent to the local league Presidents and those who coordinated the project for the local leagues.

Thanks to you who participated in this project and to Mr. Orr and his staff, improvements in the election process are being made! You should be proud of the positive difference you have made!

## LWVCC continued

### May Annual Meeting Update

Delegates from the 16 local leagues that make up the Cook County League approved a revised *Where We Stand* which now contains positions on the following areas within Cook County: County Government, Criminal Justice, Health Care, Juvenile Justice, and Township School System. Go to the League's website to read the specifics on these positions: [www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org](http://www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org).

The following were elected for 2-year terms: President Cynthia Schilsky (LaGrange Area), Vice President Karen Hribar (Arlington Heights/Mt. Prospect/Buffalo Grove Area), Treasurer Donna Moore (Homewood/Flossmoor), and Directors Betty Hayford (Evanston), Karen Hunt (Evanston), and Nancy Staunton (Oak Park & River Forest). They join Vice President Marjy Gilbert (Palos/Orland Area), Secretary Penny Shnay (Park Forest Area), and Directors Millie Juskevics (Chicago), Priscilla Mims (Oak Park & River Forest), and Betty Rosenblum (Glenview) elected last year to make up the elected Board of Directors. Lorna Neuneker (LaGrange Area) was elected to join Sue Kravis (Glenview) and Mary Ellen Matthies (Oak Park & River Forest) to serve on the Nominating Committee.

In addition to these elected Board members, each of the 16 local leagues are entitled (and urged) to have a representative on the Board who has full voting privileges. If you would like to be our League's representative to the Cook County League, please contact Therese Steinken ([tmsteinken@gmail.com](mailto:tmsteinken@gmail.com) or 847-251-3818) for more information.

Check out [www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org](http://www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org) to read the Observers' Blog for reports on the Cook County Board and some Board Committee meetings, as well as meetings of the Cook County Health and Hospitals Board. You can also view the organization charts and information about "How Cook County Spends Our Money" which garnered the Cook County League a Spotlight on League Achievement Award in the category of Community Collaboration/Outreach at the LWVIL Convention this past June.

## APPLAUSE!! APPLAUSE!!

Many thanks should be extended to so many people who, on an ongoing basis, help to make our League strong and vibrant. However, the following members deserve SPECIAL THANKS FOR STEPPING UP this past month:

**Deena Mitchell and Lali Watt** – for appearing at the Wilmette Junior High to promote our fall Student Government Program.

## Calendar

### SEPTEMBER 11

LWV Board Meeting,  
1:00 p.m. home of Georgia Gebhardt  
411 Third St.

### SEPTEMBER 20

Lunch and Tour of Oriental Museum

### SEPTEMBER 22

Legislative Interview with Julie Hamos  
1:00 p.m. home of Mari Terman  
941 Sheridan Road

### SEPTEMBER 30/OCTOBER 13

8:30 a.m.  
CC Medical Examiner tour

### OCTOBER 2-3

Lake Michigan Annual Meeting  
Saugatuk, Michigan

### OCTOBER 3

Cook County matters  
11:00 a.m.  
Glenview Police Station

### OCTOBER 19

Legislative Interview with State Senator  
Jeff Schoenberg  
7:30 p.m.

### NOVEMBER 10

CC Lunch & Learn