



# The Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago  
Website - [www.LWVChicago.org](http://www.LWVChicago.org)

Annual Meeting 2010  
Vol. 60. No. 9



## Dates To Remember

All meetings are held in the Conference Room Unless otherwise specified

**Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**LWVIL**  
**State of the State Luncheon**  
**Noon**  
**Union League Club**

**Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**LWVCC tour**  
**Civil Court**

**Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**LWVCC tour**  
**Harms Woods**

**Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Social Policy Committee**  
**10 AM to Noon**

**Friday June 11<sup>th</sup> –**  
**Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**LWVUS Convention**  
**Atlanta, GA**

**Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**LWVChicago**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Conference Room**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**9:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Development Committee  
Chair – Clara Fleming

Education Committee  
Chair – Winnie Slusser

Membership Committee  
Chair – Bernice Fortini

Call 312-939-5935  
Ext 28

## President's Column

Dear League Members,

As we approach the end of this LWVChicago program cycle, we begin to prepare for the next one. The Annual Meeting is when we select our officers and board members. We have a slate of good leaders, some newer names and some familiar ones. We won't change any bylaws at this time, but we must focus on what the League means to us and to the community. One main activity is membership growth. We will continue environmental studies with emphasis on water, its distribution and quality. With the General Election this fall, issues protecting voters' rights and campaign funding will be on our minds, locally and at the LWVUS National Convention. Public Education is a continuing topic of concern. Most of the material that you will need for this meeting is in this **Voter**. Additional materials will be distributed at the meeting. The date is Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am to 12:30, pm in the fourth floor conference room at 332 S. Michigan Ave.. The LWVUS National Convention will have taken place the week-end before our meeting, so Bernice Fortini and I will return with the usual extensive amount of information.

This year, LWVChicago tried a new idea, "Lunch with the League," a noon-time meeting with speakers discussing topics related to our issues. We have had a rather good attendance, including some new faces. Of course, members often have conflicting plans, but we should have more members and guests next year. We have been listing our Saturday briefings as well as "Lunch with the League" in the Friday edition of *The Chicago Tribune* and that has brought in a few visitors.

Voter Service projects will be important this fall and winter with the General Election in November and the Mayoral and Aldermanic Election in February. There will be a call for deputy registrars and classes will be held during the summer. Pollwatchers will be needed and there are usually some Candidate Forums. In addition, you can always apply to be an election judge.

The State Legislature may have ended its spring session by the time you get this issue. Read about what has and has not been done and why. Who voted for or against an issue about which you and the League are concerned? Keep informed from non-partisan sources. Follow LWV Updates. Not all incumbents are bad, not all new-comers are good.

Esta

**SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**

League of Women Voters of Chicago  
Annual Meeting 2010  
Proposed Agenda  
**Saturday June 19, 2010**

Call to Order – 10:00 am with the presence of a quorum  
Report of Credentials Committee  
Adopt Proposed Meeting Rules – Esta Kallen, President  
Adopt Agenda – Order of Business – Esta Kallen, President  
Appoint a Reading Committee (three members) – Esta Kallen, President  
The Past Year: President’s Report – Esta Kallen  
Greensfelder-Elam Award – presented by last year’s recipient, Helene Gabelnick  
Treasurer’s Reports - Rochelle Riffer  
    Presentation of the Treasurer’s Report  
    Adoption of the Audit Report 2008-2009  
    Presentation of the 2010 - 2011 Budget  
    Adoption of the 2010-2011 Operating Fund budget  
Recognition of Board Members present – Esta Kallen, President  
    Continuing Officers: Secretary – Norma Braude, Treasurer – Rochelle Riffer  
    Continuing Board Members: Clara Fleming, Bernice Fortini, Beverly Meyer, Terry Williams  
    Retiring Officer: Pamela Stauffer  
Presentation of Slate of Officers for 2010-2011/2012  
    Ann Logue – Nominating Committee Chair  
Election of Officers – Esta Kallen  
Presentation of Slate of Members of the Board of Directors 2010-2011/12  
    Ann Logue – Nominating Committee Chair  
Election of Members of the Board of Directors – 2010 – 2010/11 – Esta Kallen, President  
Election of the Nominating Committee 2010-2011 – Esta Kallen, President  
    Nominations of three (3) non-Board members to be made from the floor  
Discussion  
    LWVChicago’s Focus  
Reports  
    LWVUS National Convention – Esta Kallen and Bernice Fortini  
    Development Committee – Clara Fleming  
    Health Committee – Clara Fleming  
    Membership Committee – Bernice Fortini  
    Voter Service Activities – Terry Williams  
    Education Committee – Winnie Slusser  
    Environmental Issues/Natural Resources – Margaret Herring and Pat Graunke  
    Social Policy Committee – Lois Snyder  
    Other  
Direction to the Board  
Announcements  
Adjourn

## Slate for Officers and Board 2010-2011/12

The Nominating Committee is pleased to submit its slate to the members of the League of Women Voters of Chicago. We believe that the women who are nominated for offices and board members represent experience and commitment to LWVChicago.

**Note: The co-presidents are to be elected for a one year term. Therefore, there will be another election next year for a one-year term in order to keep the President/Vice President terms together.**

### Co-Presidents (for a 1-year term)

**Esta Kallen** has served two terms as president prior to which she served as a co-president. She will serve one more year as a co-president.

Participating with the various committees of the board, Esta has given impetus to activity throughout the organization seeing that publicity is given to such League meetings at which there is an outside speaker. By cooperating with other organizations, she has brought the LWVChicago to neighborhoods in which the League had no presence. She has worked to integrate new members into the organization. As a longtime League member she has also served as Unit Leader and Board Member and remains active in Unit 21/35.

Before her retirement Esta taught French at Lane Technical High School. She has traveled all over the world and has a broader perspective as a result.

**Margaret Herring** will serve as a co-president. She has been an Officer and Board Member in the past and is the leader of Unit 1/5. She has organized legislative interviews, and has chaired activities in the Natural Resources area – her latest focus has been on water. Her concern with the use of the Chicago Park District for activities other than those originally intended resulted in the LWVChicago lobbying against the 2016 Olympics in Chicago as well as the relocation of the Children’s Museum to Grant Park.

Margaret lives on the west end of Lincoln Square. Her involvement with Deborah’s Place focused on the needs of a woman’s shelter. She works for the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

### Vice-Presidents (for 2-year terms)

**Helene Gabelnick** has completed her first term as a vice president. She has helped update our computer and its records and has been invaluable in chairing those studies which had no other board member’s interest. Helene is often in the office seeing that the organization runs smoothly. Her support in planning for any activity which the Chicago League undertakes has been invaluable. She is active in Unit 22 which serves the entire city meeting in the League Conference Room monthly.

Helene, although officially retired, still teaches a few classes at the college level. She is a member of the Chicago Greeters, a free service provided by the Chicago Office of Tourism that matches visitors with enthusiastic knowledgeable residents. Helene lives in the South Loop Area.

**Patricia (Pat) Graunke** has finished her first year on the LWVChicago Board. She will be co-chair of the State of the City luncheon (with Bernice Fortini). Her interests turn in the direction of environment. Envisioning the League as a prime mover in moving towards a “greener” world, her focus is on reusable/recyclable materials. She is a member of Unit 22.

Pat came to Chicago from Glen Ellyn where she had been active in connecting high school students with the College of DuPage. Thus she brings the urban/suburban view to the Board.

### Board members (for 2- year terms)

Leslie Corbett Chenoweth has previously served on the LWVChicago Board and will bring her background as we work on the State of the City® Luncheon, planned for February. She brings a wealth of business/non-profit organization expertise to the Board.

Leslie is the Executive Director of the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation and so will add her educational background in Social Work to the Board.

**Ann Logue** chaired the Nominating Committee this year. She has been responsible for the weekly newsletter emailed to all members informing us of League meetings and other activities of interest to Leaguers. She also serves on the Board of LWVIL working in the area of Voter Service.

Ann teaches at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is a free-lance writer specializing in business and finance publications.

**Winnie Slusser**, a present board member, follows education issues for the Chicago League, edits (pro-tem) **The Chicago Voter**, is active in the Development and Membership Committees and contributes time to the Chicago League office. The Education Committee is presently involved in an update of the School Governance portion of **Where We Stand** and plans to have consensus questions available by next Fall/Winter. She is a longtime member of Unit 21/35.

Winnie is a resident of the Edgewater community. She is a seasoned activist in support of quality education; which will enable all children to reach their potential. Winnie is also active in the PTA and her church.

**Lois Snyder**, a present board member, has chaired the Social Policy Committee which updated the position on housing last year. Her consistent efforts to better people's chances for housing, jobs, and other social services has provided Leaguers with many areas in which to take action for improvement. She represents the Chicago League in the social policy coalitions of which the Chicago League is a member. Serving in many capacities on the Board, she works with the Development Committee and Membership. She is one of our office volunteers. Lois is a member of Unit 66/74.

Lois lives in Hyde Park. She is a Red Cross volunteer, is a member of her church choir and a volunteer tutor.

## **Board: (for a 1 year term)**

**Carol Westerlund** is the current Unit Director. She will serve another year in this capacity and continue to participate on the Social Policy Committee. As Unit Director she sends out monthly updates to the Unit Leaders so that they may more actively involve the units in any activities and action the LWVChicago takes.

Carol lives in Rogers Park and is active in her church and neighborhood groups.

Ann Logue, Nominating Committee Chair  
Joan Morton, Winnie Slusser, Pamela Stauffer  
Members of the Nominating Committee

## Continuing board members

Secretary – Norma Braude  
Treasurer – Rochelle Riffer

Board members:  
Clara Fleming (Health and Development)  
Bernice Fortini (Membership SOC)  
Beverly Meyer  
Terry Williams (Voter Service)

## Bylaw Amendments

There are no amendments to the bylaws approved for consideration at this Annual Meeting. No amendments to the bylaws may be proposed from the floor.

## Operating Budget

Included in this Voter is the proposed Operating Budget for 2010-2011 for the League of Women Voters of Chicago. This is to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting after its presentation by Treasurer Rochelle Riffer.

The Education Fund Budget will be noted and discussed, but its approval requires the action of the Board of Directors rather than the entire membership. The Audit will be presented at the meeting.



## Your LWVChicago Dues and PMP

When members pay their dues to the League of Women Voters of Chicago, the monies are placed in the Operating Fund. When LWVChicago pays the State, National and County their Per Member Payments (PMP) funds are taken from both the Operating Fund and the Education Fund. The Operating Fund is 501[c]4 and so contributions to it are NOT tax deductible. The Education Fund is 501[c]3 and therefore contributions to it are tax deductible.

The membership count is sent to LWVUS on January 31<sup>st</sup> in the middle of the fiscal year. LWVChicago is responsible for PMP to all levels of League for these members. Thus if you have not paid at least part of the dues, you will be dropped from the membership rolls, as we cannot pay out money which we do not have. Dues may be paid in installments if desired, but at least half of the dues for the year must be in before January 31<sup>st</sup>. This is the membership figure which determines representation at Conventions and Annual Meetings.

In the past LWVUS has given LWVChicago \$5.00 per member who joined through LWVUS. In the 2010-2011 budget of LWVUS, this payment has been eliminated. Any money coming directly to LWVUS will be considered a donation, rather than membership dues. This means that in 2011 our membership count will not include the 55 members currently designated as National Members. This may actually save LWVChicago money as many of these members do not provide email addresses and so they receive the **Voter** by snail mail. Five dollars does not cover the expense of printing and mailing ten issues of the **Voter**. Elimination of these members will result, however, in a significant drop in our membership.

Membership			
	Jan. 2009	Jan. 2010	Jan. 2011
Individual	115	93	
Household – full	11	9	
Household – half	11	9	
National	55	55	0
Honorary Life Membership	9	8	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>174</b>	
PMP			
National	\$29.20	\$29.60	
State	26.00	27.00	
County	4.50	4.50	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$59.70</b>	<b>\$61.10</b>	

This increase in LWVUS and LWVIL PMPs has caused the Board to consider raising the dues in the future. When the budget is passed, the dues amount is a part of it. In the proposed 2010-2011 budget dues remain at \$70.00 per member and \$110 per household. Fifty year members do not pay dues as Honorary Life members, nor are we assessed PMP for them.

## Where is The Money? Where Are The Jobs?

Report from the briefing held on April 17.

KATIE LUDWIG from the City of Chicago's Neighborhood Stabilization Program deals primarily with housing but also works with policy. The City of Chicago saw an overall *increase* in foreclosure filings of 10.2 percent from 2008 (20,592) to 2009 (22,685). But not every filing ends in a foreclosure. The City saw an 11.4 percent *decrease* in completed foreclosure auctions between 2008 (9,948) and 2009 (8,815).

In July of '08, Housing and Economic Reform Act (HERA) provided \$4 billion for housing. Fifty five million came to Chicago, more than any other large city, because we had a bigger problem. Then there were competitive grants for which we submitted a \$98 million RFP and received \$153 million altogether. In order to protect recent development and make a significant impact, Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) identified target areas based on proximity to recent public and private investments. Government intervention is necessary to stabilize all these areas. The goal is to assist 2,000-2,500 units over 3-5 years in targeted areas utilizing NSP 1 & 2 funds. The focus is on acquisition and rehabbing of bank-owned properties and determining the most appropriate disposition option: Homeownership, rental, or demolition. A non-profit organization, Mercy Portfolio Services, is working at the direction of the City to acquire, redevelop and reposition the properties. NSP is a reimbursement grant: *no up-front funds*. The plan is to use the \$55 million HUD grant to acquire and rehab the 1<sup>st</sup> pool of homes. Then they will use program income from sales of the 1<sup>st</sup> pool to purchase and rehab the 2<sup>nd</sup> pool. Finally they will use program income from sales of the 2<sup>nd</sup> pool to purchase and rehab the 3<sup>rd</sup> pool.

Currently NSP has identified more than 1,500 vacant units for potential acquisition. It has assessed more than 1,100 vacant bank-owned units, made offers on more than 750 units, acquired 225 units (73 properties); an additional 85 units (5 properties) are under contract and set to close in the next 30 to 65 days. Rehab is under way on 1<sup>st</sup> group of properties. More than

\$29 million, or 53% of the NSP grant, has been committed to acquiring and rehabbing properties, compared to approximately 40% committed nationwide. For more information go to [Recovery.cityofchicago.org](http://Recovery.cityofchicago.org).

CARRIE THOMAS represented the Chicago Jobs Council (a group the League helped form) which works with people in poverty. She said it will be 2017 or 2019 before we see a recovery in jobs. CJC uses strategies they know will work connecting the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) with needs of workers for transitional jobs. They work with the unskilled in subsidized employment, giving on the job training and a paycheck to help them out. Sometimes employers put in 50-100%.

Stimulus money is being used and the city has also set aside money for assistance. There were 7,800 youth jobs last summer, but \$16 million for subsidized jobs this summer with a focus on persons with incarceration in their background. There are Green Jobs in retrofitting buildings and energy efficiency. There is \$292 million in Emergency Funds for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in with a 20% city match from private funding. Heartland Alliance is the master contractor with up to 15,000 subcontractors. Money from the 2016 Fund is being used to create 1,500 youth/young adult jobs this summer.

Two weeks after the call for signatures on a letter to be sent to Representatives calling for immediate funding of the National Housing Trust Fund over a thousand organizations have responded representing 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and from 335 of the 435 Congressional districts. The goal is to get all of them represented. In the United States today, there are only 57 rental homes available and affordable for every 100 households with incomes below 30% of the area median income. A scarcity of housing that the poorest families can afford is the principle cause of homelessness in the United States. We need national, state and local organizations to sign on the letter. If you are a member of such an organization that supports low income housing, ask them to sign on to the letter found at [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org) and click Take Action on the left side of the home page.

Lois Snyder

## LWVUS

Legislation to require disclosure of corporate and union electioneering, known as the DISCLOSE Act, has been introduced in the House and Senate, and LWVUS is strongly supporting this bill. Our elected officials must protect the rights of voters. Congress must pass a fair and balanced bill before the 2010 elections to ensure these rights.

## LWVIL

LWVIL did not collect the number of signatures needed to put the "Fair Map Amendment" on the ballot. The Legislature has chosen to put a different proposal on the ballot. This one will not correct the final outcome, leaving it up to the Legislature to do the final map, which does not solve the problem.

Keep working for HB174 – this provides an income tax increase rather than the simple add on tax requested by Governor Quinn. The Legislature will probably not pass this until after the election, but we can keep up the pressure.

## LWVCC

The Forest Preserve Interest Group of LWVCC has proposed two tours, the first, to Bartel Grasslands, is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. This allows us limited time to sign up. The second is to Harms Woods on Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>. This is open to the first fifteen who sign up with Henrietta S. at [hankandboys@comcast.net](mailto:hankandboys@comcast.net).

In addition, LWVCC is conducting two Circuit Court Fields Trips: one on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to Civil Court at the Daley Center from 10:30 am to noon and the other on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to the Criminal Court Complex at 26<sup>th</sup> and California from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. These are limited to 25 people each. Sign up for one or both by calling 312-939-5935 X27 or email [cook@lwvil.org](mailto:cook@lwvil.org). There is no cost.

## LWVChicago

SB 2494 is Senator Meeks' bill for vouchers for Chicago Public Schools. Call your State Representative to OPPOSE this bill.

On August 26<sup>th</sup> LWVChicago is cosponsoring an event with American Association of University Women (AAUW) to celebrate the passage of Woman's Suffrage. Specific details will be forthcoming.

## AMERICASPEAKS Our National Economy

Would you like to be part of a workshop/town hall meeting where you and many others representing our nation's diverse population, discuss America's fiscal future? This event will take place across the country in large and small groups on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Chicago is one of the major sites. "Americaspeaks is a nonpartisan non-profit organization that provides citizens with a voice on the most important decisions that impact their lives." They are looking for participants and facilitators from all ethnic, racial, income, religious, age and professional groups.

For more information - [www.americaspeaks.org](http://www.americaspeaks.org) and [www.USAbudgetdiscussion.org](http://www.USAbudgetdiscussion.org). You may also leave a message for Esta at the office 312-939-5935 X28 to request further information. Please let other community residents know.

### In Memoriam

Unit 66/74 was saddened by the death of a member Miriam (Mibs) Apter. One of our fifty-year members, she died at the age of 97.

Mibs was a member of the Chicago Human Relations Committee from its beginning and was an advocate for all children. Active in the John Howard Association, she worked on criminal and juvenile justice matters, and was instrumental in finding continuing funding for the Jobs Corps, working not only for funding but for proper training, visiting their facilities to see that all was going well. She was also active in her temple. She relied on the CTA for transportation. She will be sorely missed by Leaguers, and especially her Unit 66/74.

### Tribute Fund

In memory of Bettina Schwartz –Daphne Daume

### **The Chicago Voter**

League of Women Voters of Chicago  
332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1150  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-939-5935, Ext 28  
Email – [league@lwvchicago.org](mailto:league@lwvchicago.org)

Esta Kallen	President
Helene Gabelnick	Vice President
Pamela Stauffer	Vice President
Norma Braude	Secretary
Rochelle Riffer	Treasurer
Winnie Slusser	Voter Editor pro-tem



2010  
Annual Meeting  
Of  
The League of Women Voters of Chicago

Saturday, June 19, 2010  
9:30 am to 12:30 pm  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
332 S. Michigan Ave.

Cost \$10.00

Please tear off and return to the League of Women Voters of Chicago  
332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60604

Or call to make reservations 312-939-5935, Ext. 28

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Contact information \_\_\_\_\_