



The Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago
Website - www.LWVChicago.org

June/July 2010
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Dates To Remember

All meetings are held in the Conference Room Unless otherwise specified

Saturday, July 24th
Summer Board Meeting
9:30 - noon

Wednesday July 28th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
LWVCC
LUNCH & LEARN
CC Health and Hospitals
System CEO
William Batts
William Foley
DePaul Club

Thursday, August 26th
LWVChicago & AAUW
Celebration of the
Passage of
Women's Suffrage
5:30 – 7:30 pm
O'Briens Restaurant

Development Committee
Chair – Clara Fleming

Education Committee
Chair -Winnie Slusser

Natural Resources
Water
Chair -Margaret Herring

Environment
Chair - Pat Graunke

Membership Committee
Chair - Bernice Fortini

Social Policy Committee
Chair – Lois Snyder

Call 312-939-5935 X28

President's Column

Dear League Members,

As summer opens with its numerous events: Taste of Chicago, Grant Park Concerts, fests and parades, we begin to plan our Chicago League calendar for the next twelve months. The LWVUS Convention in Atlanta, which Bernice Fortini and I attended, was the starting point with workshops and caucuses on the many issues that relate to our mission and interests. In this **Voter**, and the throughout the year, we will elaborate on some of them. On page 4 of this issue you will find a summary of action taken at Convention. The two study items for the next biennium are: the Federal Role in Public Education and Privatization. They are both very general statements that will need to be fashioned into a more focused manner in order to create materials from which to work. These topics are certainly appropriate for us in Chicago. Keep an eye out for articles in the media that could be useful at a League meeting.

At the Annual Meeting for the Chicago League we voted for a slate of officers, discussed the past year's program, remembered our fifty-year members, approved a budget, and I was presented with the Greensfelder/Elam award which was named after two very dedicated women in our League. I thank all of the past recipients for having confidence in me in giving me this honor. Margaret Herring will be co-president with me this year and her many years of membership and service will be helpful to us all.

Some dates have been set for the coming year. The Summer Board meeting will be Saturday, July 24th, the celebration of Women's Equality Day in partnership with the AAUW of Chicago, Thursday, August 26th and the Unit Leader's meeting on Saturday, August 28th. The State of the City[®] will be Friday March 18, 2011. Details of all of the above will be presented in the weeks to come in the **Voter**, on our website and through email.

Those of you with email should be keeping up with the weekly updates from Ann Logue. Please pass the information on to someone who does not have email. We are trying to keep in touch with you. If you haven't given us your email address, please do so – if you wish to receive the **Voter** by snail mail we will honor your request. We hope for your participation and please call the office with your questions and comments: 312-939-5935 X 28.

Enjoy the summer; is it wet enough for you?

Esta

What you can do for League

Join a committee this fall !

The Chicago LWV would like to have you become involved in its committees: Development (planning ways to meet the League's budget) is under the aegis of Clara Fleming; and membership (increasing and maintaining) is directed by Bernice Fortini. Along with the State of the City[®] chaired by Bernice Fortini and Pat Graunke, these are our in-house committees. The Health Care chair is Clara Fleming, Social Policy is Lois Snyder and Education, Winnie Slusser; Natural Resources (Water) by Margaret Herring and (Environment) by Pat Graunke. We will need someone to take on the Privatization study which the LWVUS adopted at Convention 2010. These are some of our issue committees. If you have other interests which you would like to see us pursue, let us know. We will create committees as they are needed.

Would you like to be an OBSERVER – we have Boards and Commissions which need people to keep an eye on them. Call the League Office 312-939-5935 X 28 and volunteer your services.

Membership

Membership is important. LWVUS has dropped the national membership rebate and will consider any monies thus given as a donation. This will mean that, if you are a National Member, you will no longer receive services from the Chicago League (such as this **Voter**). If you are such a member at this time, please consider joining the Chicago League for the new fiscal year which starts on July 1st. You will be sent a dues notice as your membership time expires with National.

LWVUS

LWVUS has filed an *Amicus* Brief in the lawsuit challenging AZ Immigration Law. LWVUS urged the House to Pass the DISCLOSE Act and supports comprehensive energy legislation. A letter was also written to House Speaker Pelosi supporting the Congressional Office of Ethics.

LWVIL

LWVIL asks that all of us work with our legislators during this summer to pass SB174 – it will probably not be considered until after the elec-

tion – this is one issue on which the state legislature must take a stand so that we will have sufficient funds to provide necessary services to all people of Illinois. Keep working against the “Voucher Bill” SB2494. Information on the proposed Constitutional Amendment for Recall of the Governor will be forthcoming. This item will be on the November ballot.

LWVCC

The League of Women Voters of Cook County will be hosting a Lunch and Learn meeting on the County Hospital System on Wednesday, July 28th at the DePaul Club, 1 E. Jackson (enter via the bookstore). A salad buffet luncheon will be provided at \$30.00 per person; you may register through the LWVCC website or call the office 312-939-5935 X 27.

Committees at the County level also are looking for members. The Cook County League has four Interest Groups which are meeting: Cook County Budget and Structure will concentrate on a study of the Special Purpose funds in the Cook County Budget; Cook County Health and Hospitals System (see meeting above for info); Juvenile Justice, working on some sort of oversight committee to better coordinate the work of Juvenile Justice and to make it fairer; and the Cook County Forest Preserve District. These groups meet monthly or bi-monthly for discussion and welcome any Leaguer.

Voter Service

Of all the activities of the League of Women Voters, Voter Service is of prime importance. You can be a deputy registrar, applying through the LWVChicago through Terry Williams, by calling 312-939-5935 X 28. She will register you for one of the training sessions conducted at the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners at 69 W. Washington, 5th floor conference room. Registration for the Wednesday afternoon sessions closes at 3:00 pm the day before. Registration for the Saturday morning and Wednesday or Thursday evening sessions closes two days before at 3:00 pm. Give Terry time to get you signed up. Help register voters for the November election. Terry Williams has the schedule for these meetings; contact her, through the office, to sign up to become a Deputy Registrar. You are needed and this is important League work.

Annual meeting League of Women Voters of Chicago

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Chicago was held on Saturday, June 19th in the fourth floor conference room of 332 S. Michigan Ave. with registration beginning at 9:30 am.

The call to order was at 10:06 am and business was begun, a quorum being present. The credentials committee reported 31 members in attendance. The Proposed Meeting Rules and Order of Business were adopted. A committee including Bev Meyer, Lois Snyder, and Pam Stauffer was appointed to read the minutes and make any necessary corrections.

The Past Year's President's report was given by Esta Kallen and the Greensfelder/Elam Award was presented to Esta Kallen by Helene Gabelnick. The Treasurer's Report was passed out and discussed. Rochelle Riffer reported that over \$4000 was received in response to the request for Operating Funds. The report was filed for audit. The Audit Report of 2009 was included in the packet and was adopted. Rochelle Riffer presented the both the Operating and Education Budget for 2010-2011 and after discussion the Operating Budget was adopted by the members.

Esta Kallen introduced those Board members present and recognized continuing Officers Norma Braude, Secretary and Rochelle Rifer, Treasurer and Board members: Clara Fleming, Bernice Fortini, Beverly Meyer and Terry Williams. Pamela Stauffer was recognized for her years of service. Fifty-year members Daphne Daume, Dorothy Scheff and Winnie Slusser were also recognized.

Ann Logue, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the slate of nominees for Officers: Esta Kallen and Margaret Herring as Co-presidents for one year 2010-2011; and Helene Gabelnick and Pat Graunke as vice presidents for two years. They were elected by voice vote. She then presented the names for the Board of Directors: Leslie Corbett Chenoweth, Ann Logue, Winnie Slusser, and Lois Snyder for two year terms and Carol Westerlund for a one year term. They were elected by voice vote.

Esta and Bernice gave a report on the National Convention. There will be two national studies, one on Education (the Federal Role in Education) and one on Privatization.

Reports for the various committees included both oral and written statements. The State of The City Luncheon[®] is scheduled for March 18th and will need people to help in organizing this major fundraiser for the Education Fund. The Education Committee needs members to complete our update of school governance in **Where We Stand**. Clara Fleming indicated there will be ongoing work in the health area. Bernice provided membership forms for next year thanking again all for their generosity this last year to help meet the needs of the Operating Fund. She indicated that Lunch with the League will continue. When outside speakers appear with proper publicity, this event has brought new faces to our Conference Room. Terry Williams noted that this year, with elections, will be filled with voter service activities. Margaret Herring's area of focus will be Water while Pat Graunke's will be Environment. Lois Snyder will continue with the Social Policy Committee and Joyce Haeckel reported on the usage of our website.

At the short Board meeting after the Annual Meeting Martha Music and Pamela Stauffer were appointed as Board Members for one year terms and the date of Saturday July 24th was chosen for the Summer Board meeting. Anyone with interests or concerns for the program for the next year please contact Esta or Margaret. The Education Fund Budget was adopted by the Board.

Unit Information

Contact the members listed below or the office for more information about units.

Unit 1/5 (Downtown, evenings)
Margaret Herring

Unit 9/11 (West side)
Joan Morton

Unit 21/35 (Far North side)
Carol Westerlund

Unit 22 (Downtown, days)
Bernice Fortini

Unit 66/74 (South side, days)
Dorothy Scheff

LWVUS

The Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States was held on June 11-15th. The actual business meetings of the convention began on Saturday with the Credentials Report, the Adoption of Convention Rules, Order of Business and the presentation of the Report of the Nominating Committee.

Sunday's business (after the Credentials Report) included the Presentation of the Resolutions Committee, and the Program Planning committee, followed by motions to present the parts of the National Program to be adopted by consensus or concurrence. No action was taken at this meeting. The Treasurer's Report was then given along with the Presentation of the Proposed LWVUS/EF Budgets.

On Monday the real action took place, beginning with action on bylaws. The first was a parliamentary procedure to allow for any editorial corrections which may be necessary to reflect the intent of the assembly and assure the accuracy and readability of this document. Three by-law amendments were proposed by the Board: the first to remove HONORARY before the word life members and two regarding making the budget a biennial budget and not adopting it at Interim Council. All these were approved. The non-recommended item to allow local Leagues to act without prior approval of National was defeated.

Program study items were the next on the agenda. The recommended study of the Federal Role in Public Education, focusing on the role of the federal government in policymaking, with possible considerations of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among the levels of government was adopted by the convention. The non-recommended item of a study of Privatization, the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector was approved by card vote.

The recommended item for concurrence was an update of the position on Arms Control which was approved. Non-recommended items approved included: concurrence with a position on Marriage Equality to be added to the Equality of Opportunity position and support of the National Popular Vote Compact.

Adoption of the current LWVUS Positions in **Impact on Issues** was also approved.

Resolutions to lift travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba; for safe drilling and mining for energy resources; to change the Senate's rules to limit the filibuster; to adopt the principle of TRANSPARENCY to the SARA Resolution of 2004 convention; to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all; and an Emergency Resolution on the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill were adopted or adopted as amended.

On Tuesday after the Credentials Report the level of PMP of \$29.60 was raised to \$29.70 for 2010-2011 and a PMP of \$30.00 for 2011-2012 was approved. Further increases in dues were defeated. The Budget was approved as presented. The election was held: Elizabeth MacNamara as president, Judy Duffy as 1st vice president, Judy Davis as 2nd vice president and Susan M. Wilson as secretary treasurer. Directors elected include Patricia Donath, Margaret Hawkins Hill, Mary Klenz, Janis McMillen, Marcia A Merrins, Mareienne O'Brien, Norman Turrill, and Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti. Members of the nominating committee elected Elaine Blodgett, chair, Laura Blackburn and Jennifer Vidrine.

Awards were presented at the banquet dinner, *Pioneer Award* to LWV Oak Park-River Forest, IL, *Strengthening Democracy through Reform Award* to LWV of California; *Online Engagement Award* to LWV of the Houston Area, TX, and *Connection with Community Award* to LWV of Bellingham-Whatcom County, WA. There were also several new League awards.

For additional information see the LWVUS Web site; lww.org.

<i>The Chicago Voter</i>	
League of Women Voters of Chicago 332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1150 Chicago, IL 60604 312-939-5935, Ext 28 Email – league@lwwchicago.org	
Esta Kallen	President
Helene Gabelnick	Vice President
Pamela Stauffer	Vice President
Norma Braude	Secretary
Rochelle Riffer	Treasurer
Winnie Slusser	Voter Editor pro-tem