



The Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago

March 2009

Website - www.LWVChicago.org

Vol. 59 No. 7



Dates To Remember

All Meetings held at the League Office Unless otherwise Noted

To check on committee Meetings - call the office

Development SOC Committee
Tuesday, March 3rd
2:00 pm
and weekly thereafter

Board Meeting
Monday, March 9th
5:30 pm

LWVCC
Saturday March 14th
Report on
Where does Cook County Spend Our Money
Palos Heights Library
12501 S. 71st Ave.
Palos Heights
10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Coffee at 9:30 am
Prior to program

Education Briefing
Saturday March 28th
10:00 am – 12:00 Noon
Followed by a short
Committee meeting

Social Policy/Housing
Monday, April 6th
10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Board Meeting
Monday, April 13th
5:30 pm

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Thank you to all Chicago League members who paid their dues by the January deadline. Our Per-Member-Payment (PMP) to LWVUS is based on this count and we do not want to be charged for individuals who have not paid. Therefore, we have to list those persons as inactive.

The winter weather will soon be over and it will be easier to get out and participate in our activities. One of the most important ones is the monthly briefing. Although a representative from each unit is expected, all LWV members/guests are welcome.

On the subject of units, these neighborhood groups are a most important aspect of the grassroots philosophy of the League. A member can be a part of any one, or none. I am concerned about the lack of participation at this level and hope to revitalize the units. It is difficult for members who are employed to feel like going to a meeting in the evening and weekends are for catching up. However, it is only once a month, and it's the place for a discussion on today's political issues.

Other ways to participate are the committees that exist now or could be created. All it takes are a few people who are concerned about a particular topic to arrange a meeting. It doesn't need a member of the Board of Directors to lead the group.

In this *March Chicago Voter* is an application for positions on the LWVChicago Board of Directors. The board meets the second Monday of each month, in the late afternoon to early evening, ten times a year. Nominate someone or yourself.

Are you interested in Domestic Violence issues? Being a court watcher, helping to develop a program for observers, or being on a steering committee might be what you are looking for. Please contact Betsy Minor at Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, 312-750-0730 or betsy@batteredwomensnetowrk.org. She is a VISTA volunteer and Policy Advocate for this organization.

We hope you will find a place for your interests in the League of Women Voters of Chicago.

Esta

**Note change of Education Briefing Session from
March 14th to March 28th
Attend the LWVCC meeting on the 14th.**

Board Elections are Coming

March Call for Nominations

At the Annual Meeting in June, members of the Chicago League will elect Officers, members of the Board of Directors and the chair and two members of the Nominating Committee. The Offices that are to be filled are Secretary and Treasurer, at least four and no more than six board members for two-year terms, plus up to two board members for a one-year term. The chair and two members of the Nominating Committee are elected for a one-year term. Inserted in this Voter is the Application Form for recommendations for any and all of these positions. You may nominate as many people as you wish, but please give the Nominating Committee all of the pertinent information for each person. Also, please have the consent of the nominee before you send in the information.

The Secretary is responsible for taking the minutes of all Board and All Member meetings (including the Annual Meeting). They are to be sent to all Board Members in a timely fashion.

The Treasurer is responsible for the books of the organization and for proposing the auditor or reviewer for the books.

Both the Treasurer and the Secretary serve on the Executive Committee with the President and Vice-presidents.

The entire Board plans programs and action. Board members carry out administrative responsibilities and make certain that all League Issues are kept up-to-date, so that League members can act upon them when requested.

This is a working board. Board members are expected to attend the Annual Meeting and Board meetings in person (although contact by phone is permitted for board and executive committee meetings), members are asked to participate in Board and League activities, committees, briefings and special projects or events. Members who accumulate three unexcused absences from Board meetings will be considered to have resigned from the Board and will be dropped. If a member is to be absent, (s)he must contact the president, secre-

tary or the office to note her excused absence prior to the meeting which will be missed.

Areas of activity include Membership, Development/Fundraising, Communications Committee (including the **Voter**), Website and media contacts, Voter Service and Unit Leader Director. All Board members are expected to involve themselves with these activities. Individuals follow League issues: Health Care, Education, Fiscal Policy, Housing, International Relations, etc. to keep the membership informed. Also, our Board needs observers at City Council, the Board of Education and other city agencies. It is not necessary to be a Board member to be an observer of one of the governmental bodies or to be responsible for a League Issue.

The Nominating Committee notifies members of openings for offices and the board positions. They recruit nominees, inform nominees of the responsibilities of an office and present a slate of nominees to all members thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting. Members may nominate candidates from the floor at that meeting, with the consent of the nominee. After nominations close, elections are held. Elected members of the Nominating Committee are not members of the Board and are not required to attend Board meetings.

LWVChicago Board meetings are open to members of the LWVChicago. If you want to see what we do, just call Esta, our President, at 312-939-5935 ext 28 and let her know that you are coming. The Board welcomes you.

Officers and members of the Board of Directors, whose terms expire at the annual meeting in 2008 include: Norma Braude, Rochelle Riffer, Clara Fleming, Bernice Fortini, Margaret Herring, Beverly Meyer and Terry Williams. They are all eligible for re-nomination at this time.

Nominating Committee
Patricia Graunke – Chair
Marcia Friddle and Marlene Heinlein
Members at large
Margaret Herring and Winnie Slusser
Members from the Board

Return the Application Form
by April 13th to LWVChicago
332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1150
Chicago, IL 60604

Our Committee Activities

Development – Membership *The State of the City®*

The Development committee is chaired by Clara Fleming, and works to provide money for the League, in addition to the dues. The State of the City® (SOC) luncheon, scheduled for Friday, May 8, is co-chaired by Bernice Fortini and Patricia Graunke. SOC is the LWV Chicago's big fundraiser. People are always needed to make phone calls; stuff envelopes and do a myriad of other small tasks. Call the office to ask for particulars. The committee generally meets Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 PM.

Membership is chaired by Bernice Fortini. She can use volunteers to follow up with members on dues payments, political addresses, etc.

Education

The Education committee will be meeting after the Briefing Session on March 28th. That Briefing will be covering Local School Councils (LSCs) as they are today. Speakers from the Chicago Board of Education and members of Local School Councils have been invited to share their views on what is happening as these groups plan for their schools' future.

In 1990 the reconfigured Chicago Board of Education (CBoE) went into place along with the elected Local School Councils (LSC). Each Chicago School has a mini school board with many of the school board powers. Every two years an election is held at each school, six parents of children in the school and two community members (who are not parents of children in the school) are elected by the school community. Two teachers are selected by the school staff and with the principal complete the membership of the LSC.

All of those schools directly under the supervision of the CBoE have elected councils. Charter and Contract schools have their own form of governing body. Every one of these groups is supposed to have parent involvement. Some of Chicago's LSCs have been given more

leeway, they are called Autonomous Schools. These are schools which meet the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements or are at least making Average Yearly Progress (AYP). Some sanctions of councils occur when they do not meet NCLB standards.

Come on March 28th to hear what is happening with the LSCs. The Education committee will convene for a short time after the Briefing session.

Social Policy

The Social Policy committee, chaired by Lois Snyder, has been focusing on low income housing in Chicago and has joined the National Low Income Housing Coalition to receive full information on this issue. Nationally LWVUS has interacted with this coalition in the past. Chicago's concerns will be brought to you with the May Voter, as the committee is working to update the housing portion of the ***Where We Stand*** booklet.

This committee meets regularly the first Monday of each month. It welcomes new members.

Unit Meetings

1/5 – Downtown - Evening
Fourth Monday
March 23rd - 5:30 pm - League Office

Unit 9/11 - West Side – Central
Contact: Joan Morton

Unit 21/35
Day/Evening Unit
Contact: Carol Westerlund or
Bettina Schwartz

Unit 22 – Downtown - Daytime
Third Thursday
March 19th, 10:00 am - League Office

Unit 41/42 – Southwest side
Day/evening Unit
Contact: Betsy Perrine

Unit 66/74 - South Side – Hyde Park
Day Unit
Montgomery Place
Third Thursday, March 19th at 1:00 pm

LWVUS

National Popular Vote Compact (NPV) Study Update notes that League members continue to receive material sent from organizations supporting the NPV compact. LWVUS did not ask that these materials be sent to members and did not provide members' email addresses. This means that LWV is seen as a force in the political arena and that it is up to us to come to consensus in a proper League way.

ACTION ALERT! The Senate has passed the Voting Rights for DC Bill and it is now in the House. Contact your representative to vote for this bill – it has been on the League agenda since the League was formed. We do not give up on positions until they have been enacted.

Sunshine Week is March 15-21. This is to stress the importance of open government and freedom of information. On Friday, March 20th, from 1-2:30 pm (ET) the LWVEF will co-host the **4th annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue** available on webcast. To participate in the webcast visit www.openthegovernment.org. Print and broadcast public service announcements of this issue are available along with a template for Letters to the Editor.

LWVIL

A new committee has been formed on Education matters looking beyond funding issues in the state. Interested parties may contact Claire McIntyre randymc@charter.net and she will add you to the committee list.

LWVCC

Individuals have been signing up to observe and monitor various Cook County boards. If you are interested and have not done so yet, call the League Office 312-939-5935 ext 27 and express your interest.

LWVCC has a long tradition of monitoring the Cook County Board and related governmental bodies through its Observer Corps. An archive of observer reports is available at the LWVCC website, <http://cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org/>. Since

January 2009 and going forward observer reports are posted on the LWVCC's new blog, accessible through a link on the website, or at <http://cookcountyobserver.blogspot.com/>.

You may subscribe to the blog if you use an RSS Reader by clicking on the "Subscribe to Posts" button on the lower right of the blog site. Please consider bookmarking the LWVCC website as well as the blog site.

On Saturday March 14th, the League of Women Voters of Cook County will present its report from the Employment Practices Study Committee. After a 2-year study this is your opportunity to hear what they have learned. "Where Does Cook County Spend Our Money?" is the title of the report which addresses Cook County employment practices. It will be held 10:00 am- 12:00 noon at the Palos Heights Library, 12501 S. 71st Ave., Palos Heights, from 10:00 AM to noon, preceded by coffee at 9:30 AM.

Since the Education briefing has been rescheduled to March 28th, we urge your attendance at this important meeting on the 14th.

LWVChicago

March meetings will cover the material on the National Popular Vote Compact. The material was included in the February Issue of **The Chicago Voter**. Attend your unit meeting on this very important issue. The LWVUS has a position to abolish the Electoral College. Is this the way around it, is it suitable, are there other ways? – This is up to you!

The Chicago Voter

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

Application for the LWVChicago Board or Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee of the League of Women Voters of Chicago is in the process of identifying members for the Board and Nominating Committee positions.

This is a working board. Board members are expected to attend the Annual Meeting and all Board meetings in person, asked to participate in Board and League activities, committees, briefings and special projects or events. Members who accumulate three unexcused absences to Board meetings will be considered to have resigned from the Board and will be dropped.

If you would like to make a nomination to the Board or the Nominating Committee, please complete the form below and notify the person whom you have nominated, ask for his/her acceptance of the nomination. If this is of interest to you, nominate yourself!

For Secretary there is one vacancy for a two-year term.

For Treasurer there is one vacancy for a two-year term.

For Board members there are at least four (4) and no more than six (6) vacancies for two (2) year terms

For Board members there are up to two (2) vacancies for one (1) year terms.

For the Nominating Committee the Chair and two members each for a one (1) year term.

Our current Secretary is Norma Braude and our Treasurer is Rochelle Riffer.

Board members whose terms expire are Clara Fleming, Bernice Fortini, Margaret Herring, Beverly Meyer and Terry Williams.

Please use the form below and attach information for each name.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ Fax _____

- What special background/experience will the Applicant bring to the Board or Nominating Committee?
- Why will the Applicant make an effective Board or Nominating Committee Member?
- How will the Applicant's leadership style contribute to the management of the Chicago League's activities?
- What areas of special interest on the Board would the Applicant choose?

ALL BOARD MEMBERS are expected to be involved in

- Membership
- Development/fundraising (State of the City® luncheon, other)
- Voter Service

Board members may select to be involved in at least one of the below:

- League Issues (Health Care, Education, Fiscal Policy, Housing, etc.)
- Observers at City Council, Board of Education and other city agencies.
- Communications Community Outreach (the **Voter**, website, media contacts)

Person completing form _____ contact information _____