



The Chicago Voter

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

March 2011
Vol. 61 No. 8



<p>Dates To Remember</p> <p>Meetings held at the League Office Unless otherwise noted</p> <p>Monday, March 7 Social Policy Committee 10:00 am – noon</p> <p>Executive Committee Call of the co-pres.</p> <p>Monday, March 14 Board Meeting 5:45 pm</p> <p>Friday, March 18 State of the City® Luncheon Register before 12:00 pm Union League Club 65 W. Jackson Blvd. All Leaguers</p> <p>Saturday, March 26 Briefing Session Topic to be announced 10:00 am - noon</p> <p>Any other meetings Call the League Office 312-939-5935 x28</p>	<p>CO-PRESIDENT’S COLUMN</p> <p>Dear League Members and all:</p> <p>What’s new in Chicago? A new mayor and several new aldermen were winners in the February 22 Municipal election. Some of the elected aldermen are incumbents and their experience will be good for the City Council. However, the voting is NOT over. Fourteen wards need to hold run-off elections on April 5 because no candidate received more than fifty percent of the votes. Then the whole City Council will be inaugurated in May. If you live in a ward where there will be a run-off please become informed about the candidates and vote. The dismal turn-out last month makes it look like citizens don’t really care about their leaders until they don’t like the way things are done. We have the opportunity to make the City Council be more responsive to our interests. Let’s not shrug the election off as a “done deal” and “why bother to vote.” Keep in mind the problem of privatization of the parking meters and the situation in Wisconsin’s handling of its budget plans.</p> <p>What’s happening in the League? Please read the articles in this issue. First of all, try to attend the State of the City® Luncheon on March 18. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle is the main speaker and Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon will also address the group. In this issue is an application for the Board of Directors. Please give serious thought to joining the leadership of the Chicago League. The Board meets eleven times a year, the second Monday of the month at 5:45 pm. You do not have to be a chair, but may choose a one-time issue or activity to lead. You are expected to help on various Board committees from time to time. Esta Kallen, Norma Braude and Rochelle Riffer have served us well, and will not seek another term. We need to elect a president for a one-year term. The position of treasurer does expect some background in accounting, see the board nomination article. If you know someone, maybe recently retired, who is interested in a community oriented, grassroots organization like LWV, please seek her/his consent to be nominated. Some issues can be worked on in an “off-board” manner.</p> <p>By the way, men are welcome. This all is in preparation for the annual meeting in June.</p> <p>We hope to see you at various League meetings in the months to come.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Esta</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sign up Become an Active LWVChicago Board Member We need YOU!</p>
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CITY BUDGET

The next mayor and City Council will be operating under the 2011 budget approved by Mayor Richard M. Daley and the City Council in office in 2010. A copy of this document is in our office and can be used there. Budget Director Eugene Munin spoke to the Lunch with the League on November 8, 2010 and gave us the books and explanatory material.

Norma Braude

LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE BOOK CLUB

Because we are holding the State of the City[®] Luncheon on March 18, these two League activities have been cancelled in hopes that you will make the effort to attend the Education Fund annual event.

WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE LEAGUE

First: Send in your reservation (the flyer with this **March Voter**) for the State of the City[®] Luncheon. This is our big fundraiser for the Education Fund, which is tax exempt - 501[c]3. As you know the League at all levels is not totally tax-exempt, the Operating Fund is 501[c]4. This **Voter** and all others are under this latter category, as the League often asks you to support or oppose an issue, and this is lobbying. The League NEVER supports candidates, only issues for which national, state, city, county, Inter-League Organizations have positions.

If you cannot attend, please consider donating as the Education Fund can often be used to provide educational materials not only to Leaguers but to the general public.

Second: Please send in recommendations for the Board of Directors, its officers and members, and the Nominating Committee and its chair as well as recommendations for Issues chairman, who do not need to be Board members but may serve off-board. WE NEED YOUR HELP if the Chicago League is to be a vibrant organization. The nominating form is the last page of this **Voter**.

Information on pages four and five give the responsibilities for the officers and board members – the Secretary and Treasurer are vital

to our well-being and we need dedicated people for these tasks. We particularly need someone to follow the Health issues as the battle for Health Care continues. As of now, the Appellate Courts have ruled three times that the law was constitutional and twice that it was not. We sorely miss Clara Fleming.

Third: You can volunteer to join a committee at the Chicago, Cook County or Illinois level as we work for the betterment of our society.

Chicago has active committees for both organizational (often short term) and issues (usually long term). At present we have an active committee on Education and one on Social Policy and more may be forthcoming.

Cook County has committees on county budget, Forest Preserve District, Health and Hospital Systems, Juvenile Justice or the newly formed Special Funds Budget.

Check the LWVIL website for State active committees.

Fourth: You can volunteer your time in the office. We have no paid staff, and need people to answer the phone, pick up the mail and relay messages to the proper person.

Fifth: You can be an observer for the various governmental bodies of the City and County so Leaguers can learn about these meetings from the League perspective.

Sixth: And not the least – you can help recruit members for the Chicago League. We need new people especially since LWVUS has ceased to have National Members (we lost about fifty names in this change). Leaguers receive the **Chicago Voter** by email or snail mail and we hope to get them to join units and become active along with those of us who maintain our memberships over the years. You can always start a new unit with friends.

TRIBUTE FUND

A donation in memory of Clara Fleming has been made by:

Lois Snyder

(Money donated to the Tribute Fund is put in the operating fund.)

OPERATING FUND

Donations to the Operating Fund were made by:

Bill and Diane Edmundson

Eleanor Lewis

RECYCLING BRIEFING

Chris Sauve, Chicago Streets and Sanitation Program Director for Recycling, spoke to us about the city's waste management and recycling program.

In addition to collection, disposal and recycling of residential refuse, the Department of Streets and Sanitation also is responsible for sweeping and plowing streets, removing graffiti, cleaning vacant lots, towing illegally parked vehicles, rodent abatement, and planting, trimming and removing trees.

The city manages waste collection for approximately 600,000 households, consisting of single family homes up to four unit buildings. Buildings with more than four units as well as commercial and industrial businesses must contract with private waste haulers for waste collection services.

In 2007, the city introduced the Blue Cart Recycling program in seven communities and has since expanded it to more than 240,000 households. Further expansion of the program has been delayed due to financial difficulties. In 2010, the sale of recycled waste from the Blue Cart program produced more than one million dollars, while the savings from not putting that same recycled waste into a landfill saved the city more than two million dollars.

At present garbage is picked up ward by ward and the pickup schedule is under the control of each alderman. Streets and Sanitation is hoping to change that system of pickup to a grid system, which would allow them to collect refuse faster with fewer shifts and be more efficient, saving time and money.

There are no landfills within the city limits. Garbage is taken to Livingston Landfill near Pontiac, and recycled material is hauled away by contracted haulers: Allied Waste, Resource Management, and Waste Management.

To dispose of other waste that isn't supposed to be placed in the Blue Cart:

- Bring your household chemicals, paints, used motor oils, computers and electronic equipment to the City's facility located at

1150 N. North Branch. See www.bluecartschicago.org for more information and for days and times the facility is open.

- Bring your used and rechargeable batteries to your Chicago Public Library or to a Walgreen's Store.
- Pharmaceuticals can be taken to some Chicago Police Departments.
- Plastic bags should be brought back to your grocery or department store.

For more information, go to chicagorecycles.org.

Also refer to www.LWVUS.org for the various articles which they have provided on the entire Natural Resources – Environmental issues.

Pat Graunke

Unit Meetings

Note for Several Units

No Meeting in March
Please plan to attend the
State of the City[®] Luncheon
On Friday, March 18

Unit 1/5
Downtown – evening
Monday, March 21 – 5:30 pm

Unit 9/11
West Side – daytime
Sunday, March, 13, 2011
1:00 pm
Third Unitarian Church
301 N. Mayfield
Leader – Joan Morton

Unit 21/35
Leader – Carol Westerlund
See above note

Unit 22
Downtown – daytime
See above note

Unit 41/42
Call the Office

Unit 66/74
Daytime – Montgomery Place
Thursday, March 17, 2011 – 1:00 pm
Leader – Dorothy Scheff

BOARD ELECTIONS ARE COMING

MARCH CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

At the Annual Meeting in June, members of LWVChicago will hold the annual election. The offices that are to be filled are: Secretary and Treasurer each for a two-year term, and President for a one-year term; at least four and no more than six board members for two-year terms. In addition the chair and two members of the nominating committee for a one-year term are elected. The last page of 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 on each person. Please have the consent of the nominee before you send in the recommendation. You may nominate yourself as well – we encourage you to do so, especially if you have an area of organizational or issues-oriented interest.

The President's duties are specified in the bylaws.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION, Sec. 2. The President or Co-Presidents.

The president or co-presidents (hereinafter referred to as president) shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and perform such other duties as may be designated by the board, or designate another person to do so; shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the nominating committee; may sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes in the absence of the treasurer; and shall perform such other duties as the board may direct.

This means that the President is the person who speaks for the Chicago League, and who assigns any delegated responsibilities to others. She needs to be available to do this, and must delegate responsibility in her absence so that the work of the League may progress.

The Secretary according to the bylaws:

Sec. 4. The Secretary. *The secretary shall keep minutes of any membership business meetings and board meetings. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election and shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board; and shall perform such other duties as the president and board may direct.*

She is responsible for taking the minutes of all Board and All-Member meetings (including the Annual Meeting). She may also take minutes at Issues oriented meetings where possible. This means that it is helpful if the individual is available for more than just board and all-member meetings, as she is the source for material for communications.

The Treasurer according to the bylaws:

Sec. 5. The Treasurer. *The treasurer shall perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office; arrange for an annual review or audit of the books; and at the direction of the board, maintain deposits in authorized financial institutions.*

The Treasurer is responsible for the books of the organization and for proposing the auditor or reviewer for the books. The President and Secretary are signers of all checks from the League of Women Voters of Chicago. In addition the Treasurer deposits (at least weekly) checks which have come in and pays expenses, recording transactions in the QuickBooks Software. She reconciles bank statements with the financial books and presents a monthly report to the Board of cash position, liabilities, revenue and expenses for both the Operating and Education funds; sees to it that insurance is up to date and files reports and tax returns required by the IRS, State of Illinois, and Illinois Department of Revenue; serves on the Budget committee to assist in preparation of the proposed Operating and Education fund budgets; works with the LWVIL Treasurer and bookkeeper regarding the Education fund; ensures that the Conflict of Interest forms are updated by the members of the Board of Directors, and follows the Record Retention Policy approved by the Board of Directors.

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

Program for the biennium is planned beginning at the Unit level. The entire Board is responsible for 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.

Board Member bylaws requirements:

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Sec. 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office.

The board shall consist of the officers of the League

continued on page 5

from page 4

and not fewer than eight or more than twelve elected directors. The elected members may appoint additional directors not to exceed the number of elected directors. All directors shall be voting members of the LWV Chicago. No person shall be elected to the board for more than eight consecutive years. Directors shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been qualified and elected. Appointed directors shall serve until the close of the next annual meeting. At the annual meeting, directors shall be elected so that staggered terms will be maintained.

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

Areas of the organization which require board membership include: Development (State of the City®), Finance/budget, Membership, Editor of the **Voter**, Voter Service and Unit Leader Director. There should be a Communications Committee to include the **Voter**, Website, Facebook, Chicago League Weekly and media contacts.

Also, we need 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 at one of the governmental bodies or to be responsible for a League Issue.

League issues include: Education for the LWVUS Study on the Role of the Federal Government in Education, issues which are adopted at the State Convention in June, may include a study on the State Pension System and any local studies are adopted at the June Annual meeting of LWVChicago, possibly local pension systems and the Asian Carp question.

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, assuming the consent of the nominee has been obtained. 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.

Ongoing issues which should have a chair include Health, Natural Resources/Environment, Social Policy and other issues which are of importance to LWVUS, LWVIL, LWVCC, and LWVChicago. If you have an interest in any of these areas, please consider joining us as board members or off board.

LWVChicago Board meetings are open to members of the LWVChicago. If you want to see what we do, just call Esta or Margaret, our co-presidents, at 312-939-5935 x28 and let them know that you are coming. The Board welcomes you.

Officers whose terms expire and are asking not to be slated again are Norma Braude, Esta Kallen and Rochelle Riffer. Thus we need new names for these positions. Members of the Board of Directors, whose terms expire at the annual meeting in 2011 are: Bernice Fortini, Beverly Meyer, Martha Music, Pamela Stauffer, and Terry Williams. They are eligible for re-election. We must have someone to monitor the Health Care issue as it remains a bone of contention as the law is implemented.

Leslie Corbett Chenoweth, Ann Logue, Winnie Slusser and Lois Snyder are continuing board members through 2012. Our webpage is under the direction of Joyce Haeckel and our Facebook page under the aegis of Pauline Burgess Zdonek and Ann Logue is responsible for the Chicago League Weekly.

WE NEED YOU! Please return the form at the end of this **Voter** with your name or those of others whom you would recommend for board positions or for off-board work.

The Nominating Committee
Margaret Goldstein – Chair
Margaret O'Hara and Marlene Heinlein - Members
Winnie Slusser and Lois Snyder – Board Members

LWVUS

Issues which LWVUS continues to focus on include opposition to the repeal of the Presidential Campaign Public Finance System as well as the Affordable Health Care Act. The House has already passed the repeal of both these issues and they may or may not be brought up in the Senate. Leaguers are urged to oppose such action – contact your Senators to express your concern.

The drastic cuts proposed by the House are seen as inhibiting economic recovery as they would put more people out of work. The President's budget contains increases for education while cutting other areas. Again, let your congressional representatives and senators know your wishes.

In addition, LWV is promoting transparency and public participation in the upcoming redistricting process.

Many states have introduced photo ID's as necessary to participate in an election – Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP – a LWVUS project) is working against such requirements, as it often means minorities and the poor are disenfranchised.

LWVIL

The Issues Briefing on February 5, featured Kathy Ryg, President of Voices for Illinois Children; Ralph Martiere, Executive Director for the Center for budget and Tax Accountability; and Sam Hudzyk, political reporter WBEZ. All indicated that our work was not complete, in fact the fiscal crisis will not go away until we have a permanent solution in place.

LWV Illinois is doing legislative interviews with our congressional representatives and state senators and representatives. The issues which are being stressed include the Illinois Fiscal Crisis, Redistricting, the Death Penalty, Climate Change and Immigration. If you are interested in participating, please let the Chicago office know and material will be given to you to help with this activity.

A survey report on how the budget crisis has impacted your community and the 2010 census material is also available on LWVIL.org. In addition updates on LWVIL issues: Campaign

Finance, Children's Services, Climate Change, Criminal Justice, Death Penalty, Election Laws, Fiscal Policy/Schools, Gun Violence, Health Care/Reproductive Health, Immigration, Mental Health, Redistricting and Social Policy are also available on the same website – LWVIL.org.

LWVCC

There will a report on the Lunch & Learn speaker, Tom Dart, Cook County Sheriff, in the next **Voter**.

If you know of anyone who would be interested, not just Leaguers, LWVCC offers presentations on Cook County Government. Contact them at 312-939-5935 x27 or through their website, LWV-CookCounty-IL.org.

The Cook County Observer Blog provides reports of meetings of the county governmental agencies which various Leaguers observe and provide information to all.

LWVCHICAGO

We urge you to attend the State of the City® Luncheon on March 18, a registration form flyer included with this Voter.

As soon as material comes from National, the Education Committee will set up its first meeting on the subject of the Federal Role in Education. The update from this committee on our School Governance position will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Start thinking about the Annual Meeting NOW! We need your input into the nominations for board positions and we need you to attend. This is the year we adopt program, and we need YOUR involvement – before, during and after.

The Chicago Voter

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Esta Kallen & Margaret Herring	Co-Presidents
Helene Gabelnick	Vice President
Pat Graunke	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 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, notify the person whom you have nominated and ask for her/his acceptance of the nomination. If this is of interest to you, nominate yourself!

For President there is one vacancy for a one-year term.

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 and no more than six vacancies for two year terms

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

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

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

I am willing to serve on the Board yes no I am willing to be off board yes no

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 _____