



# The Chicago Voter

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

May 2009  
Vol. 59. No. 9



## Dates To Remember

All Meetings held at the League Office  
Unless otherwise Noted

To check on committee Meetings - call the office.

Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>  
Health Care Briefing  
10:00 am – noon

Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Cook County LWV  
Annual Meeting  
Brookfield Zoo

Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Call of the President

Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> –  
Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>  
LWVIL Convention  
East Peoria, IL

Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>  
Chicago LWV  
Annual Meeting  
Mity Nice Grill  
Water Tower Place  
9:00 – 11:30 am

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The twenty-fourth State of the City® luncheon continued the tradition of bringing a topic of current interest to the public. The panel addressed the issue of "Facing Chicago's Financial Future" and answered quite a number of questions from the audience. This is an example of our mission to inform the citizens of elements of social policy that affect us all. Although attendance and donations were less than last year, it was still successful in helping our Education Fund. My deepest appreciation to those who helped by buying tickets, working on the program or donating. The downturn in the economy caused the lower financial gain for the Chicago League.

To keep up with our program for the year, there is a briefing on health care on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. This is being emphasized by LWVUS this biennium.

The LWVIL Convention will take place the week-end of June 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> in East Peoria. Topics to be discussed are the census, redistricting and aspects of reform. All these are very important to us in Chicago and Illinois. The Chicago League will be raffling the League-made afghan on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Please support our Operating Fund.

The Annual Meeting of the LWV Chicago is scheduled for Saturday morning, June 20<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Mity Nice Grill at Water Tower Place. The reservation form is included in this issue of the Voter. The program has as its purpose the election of the Secretary, Treasurer and members of the Board of Directors for a two-year term (2009-2011) and one Director for a one-year term. In addition a new Nominating Committee for next year will be elected. We also approve the Operating Budget and last year's Financial Review. Program will be adopted along with an amendment to the bylaws. If you are interested in being on the Board, you may be nominated from the floor, but you must complete the form which can be mailed/mailed to you. It is very important for you to attend because we need your ideas. Otherwise it seems as if the directors make all of the decisions without concern for the members. We try to keep the cost down, so nobody is left out. Please be there.

I hope you are enjoying these spring days that have finally arrived.

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**Flyer for Annual Meeting Reservations  
ENCLOSED**

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## CALL FOR DEPUTY REGISTRARS

Do you want to be a Deputy Registrar? If so, you must apply or re-apply and take the necessary training from the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners. The Chicago LWV is a sponsoring agency for this activity. This enables you to register voters as you go about your regular business as well as at activities which the Chicago League sponsors.

Official requests for training are required and must be on League letterhead. Call the office and leave a message for Terry Williams, who will contact you for scheduling the training which is conducted at 69 W. Washington Street in the 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room.

Times for training are listed below. Registration closes a day or two before the class in the afternoon so that the Board of Election Commissioners may determine whether there is adequate response to hold the class. If not, it may be cancelled.

### May 2009

Wednesday, May 13 – 3:00 pm  
Wednesday, May 20 – 6:00 pm  
Saturday, May 30 – 9:30 am

### June 2009

Wednesday, June 10 – 3:00 pm  
Saturday, June 20 – 9:30 am  
Wednesday, June 24 – 6:00 pm

### July 2009

Wednesday, July 15 – 3:00 pm  
Saturday, July 25 – 9:30 am  
Wednesday, July 20 – 6:00 pm

### August 2009

Wednesday, August 12 – 3:00 pm  
Saturday, August 22 - 9:30 am  
Wednesday, August 26 – 6:00 pm

Terry Williams will be sure that you are properly registered in time for the class. This is a very rewarding kind of League work. Do sign up!

## HEALTH CARE BRIEFING

Be sure to attend the Health Care Briefing on May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am in the League office in the Conference Room. The Topic will be the Obama-Biden Health Care Plan and the leaders of the discussion will be Robin Gabel, executive Director of Illinois Maternal and child Health; Susan Hurley, Community Organizer for the Campaign for Better health Care and Clara Fleming our LWV Board member, Health Committee Chair. Please call 312-939-5935 X28 by May 14<sup>th</sup> to have your name placed on the Building Security list.

This is an issue upon which National League is focusing. Material is available on the LWVUS web site with background information provided by the LWVUS Health Care Task Force. Be sure to avail yourself of this information prior to attending the Briefing Session.

The rest of this **Voter** is dedicated to the Annual Meeting. The **June Voter** will cover the material missing from this issue

### Unit Meetings

1/5 – Downtown - Evening  
Contact Margaret Herring  
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  
Thursday, May 28  
10:00 am League Office

Unit 41/42 – Southwest side  
Day/evening Unit  
Contact: the League Office

Unit 66/74 - South Side – Hyde Park  
Day Unit at Montgomery Place  
Thursday, May 21, 1:00 pm

## ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

The material on the following six pages is important.  
Please bring it with you to the Annual Meeting.  
Included with this information is the  
Slate of Officers and Board Members with Biographies  
Operating Budget  
Bylaw Amendment  
Program Planning Recommendations

Page 3 – Bylaw Amendment – Program Planning Recommendations

Page 4 – Proposed Budget

Pages 5 and 6 – NEW Recommended Position for Housing

Pages 7 and 8 – Biographies of Nominees, Further Program Planning action.

### BYLAW AMENDMENT:

Approved at the League of Women Voters of Chicago Board of Directors at the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Present Bylaw

Section 3. b. All recommendations shall be submitted to the program planning chair, who shall compile all program recommendations and ~~mail or email them to board members at least two weeks~~ before the board meeting at which local program is to be voted.

STRIKE: after “recommendations” “mail or e-mail them to board members at least two weeks” before “before the board meeting at which local program is to be voted.”

***Rationale: Most board members have email and a two week interval is no longer necessary. Those without email can be contacted by phone.***

#### Proposed Bylaw

Section 3. b. All Recommendations shall be submitted to the program planning chair, who shall compile all program recommendations and ***notify all board members by email or by email or phone at least five days*** before the board meeting at which local program is to be voted

ADD: after “recommendations” “notify all board members by email or phone at least five days” before “before the board meeting at which local program is to be voted.”

### RECOMMENDED PROGRAM – BY CONCURRENCE

In the Education Section: Change the 6 – 16 age level for education to 5 – 18 or a high school diploma or its equivalent.

***Rationale: Today’s children need the extra pre-school year. If permitted to leave school before they have received a high school diploma students will not be in a position to support either themselves or a family. A majority of jobs today require an AA degree or its equivalent in further education or training. About one-third more of the jobs require a full college education leaving little for the high school graduate. Few jobs are available to individuals without a high school diploma.***

Proposed Budget 2009-2010

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHICAGO				
Budget for Year July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010				
	Year 09- 10 Budget	Current YTD	Year 08- 09 Budget	Budget Notes Year July 98 - June 10
	Operating Fund	Actual	Operating Fund	Operating Fund
	501 ( c ) (4)	June-March	501 ( c ) (4)	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Membership Dues \$70.00	9,530.00	9,190.00	12,970.00	100 * \$70 + 23 * \$110
National Members Dues Rebate \$5	310.00	325.00	260.00	62 national members
Individual Contributions	3,000.00	2,614.85	2,500.00	
Phonathon	800.00		800.00	
Other Special Events	2,000.00		2,000.00	
Annual Meeting 36 * \$25	900.00		900.00	
In Kind Income (Voter Sponsors))		111.00	1,500.00	
Miscellaneous Income (Voter Ads)				
Interest				
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>16,540.00</b>	<b>12,240.85</b>	<b>20,930.00</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Bookkeeping/Accounting/Audit	800.00		2,500.00	
Computer & IT Services (Recurring)	250.00	227.35	250.00	Website
New Computer/Printer Equipment/Software .& SetUp	625.00			40% Operating/60% Education
Occupancy	2,040.00	1,475.30	1,956.00	40% Operating/60% Education
Telephone & FAX	216.00	167.37	165.00	
Supplies	600.00	538.72	500.00	
Copying	120.00	114.24	60.00	40% / 60%
Voter Printing Avg \$100 x 11	1,500.00	927.08	2,200.00	
Postage	1,000.00	322.85	2,425.00	OP Fund = 1,650 Voters per year (150 * 11) x .44 + 300 Membership mailing x.44+ \$25 general + Meter Rental (117)
Insurance - Liability	200.00	215.85	125.00	
D&O Insurance	1,250.00	1,136.00	1,250.00	Estimate 10% increase
Bank Fees			-	
Travel & Meeting Expense		22.00	-	
Dues/Fees/Subscriptions	210.00	205.00	100.00	State Filing Fees; Other Fees
Annual Meeting	800.00		800.00	Union League Club/Printing Materials
Special Events	400.00		400.00	
National PMP \$29.20	1,963.70	2,112.24	2,583.00	50/50 split; calculation on 123 Regular Members + 23 Household
State PMP \$26.00	1,748.50	1,079.00	2,398.50	50/50 split; calculation on 123 Regular Members + 23 Household
County PMP \$4.50	605.25	747.00	830.25	Calculation on 123 Regular Members + 23 Household
Donations/Gifts	100.00	50.00	200.00	
Bank Account Reserve/ Available to Pay Arrears	2,111.55		2,187.25	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>16,540.00</b>	<b>9,340.00</b>	<b>20,930.00</b>	
<b>EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,900.85</b>	<b>-</b>	

**WHERE WE STAND-CHICAGO-HOUSING 2009**  
**TO BE APPROVED BY CONCURRENCE**

**This is the suggested replacement for the Housing position on page 7 of Where We Stand – Chicago League. Changes in the original position are in boldface italic. This was approved for presentation at the April Board Meeting 2009.**

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HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT: A Department of Housing and Neighborhood (Community) Development should administer community development and housing subsidy funds and coordinate service of other departments relating to housing and neighborhood improvement. Services should include neighborhood, commercial and industrial development, housing rehabilitation and technical services, ***mortgage counseling***, fair housing counseling, urban homesteading, relocation assistance, weatherization assistance and code enforcement. (1997). ***The needs of housing consumers must not be overlooked.***

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FAIR HOUSING:

National, state and local legislation should prohibit all housing discrimination by real estate salesmen and brokers, lending institutions, residential land developers and owners. Legislation should cover apartments, private homes and vacant land. The public should be educated to create an atmosphere of support for open housing policies. (1963, 1969)

The League supports: A city commission with power to investigate and initiate complaints; the use of conciliation and mediation to eliminate unfair practices, with recourse to the courts should these fail, and the right to petition the court for injunctive relief with safeguards for both parties; speedy resolution of complaints; educational programs on procedure and responsibilities; adequate funding for these purposes; and continuous evaluation of the programs.

***Local government should enforce Fair Housing Laws aggressively and expand educational outreach to property owners, landlords, condo associations, and co-ops as to the rights and obligations of Fair Housing Laws for both landlords and tenants.***

MULTI-FAMILY RENTAL HOUSING: The Chicago League supports property tax exemptions for multi-family rental housing targeted to building owners and/or tenants in particular trouble, but would not seek changes to lower the assessed value of all rental property. The Cook County League supports retention of a classification system in Cook County, with no further modification until the most recent changes are evaluated. As of 1989, the classification system has included a multi-family building rehabilitation incentive. (1981)

CONDOMINIUMS: Strong tenant and consumer protective measures should be included in the city's condominium ordinance to protect both tenants and prospective purchasers. These should include adequate notice of intent to convert together with the property report; information on financing and repairs; developer warranties on major systems and provision for costs of bringing the building into code compliance; the right of a tenant group to purchase the building; relocation assistance; mortgage assistance. Condominium associations should be made up of owners only. (1980)

LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING: Nationwide, the League supports programs and policies to provide a decent home and a suitable, accessible, living environment for every American family, with the federal government assuming primary responsibility. Statewide, the League supports tax incentives to provide an adequate supply of low and moderate income housing. Considerable Chicago League action has been taken under these positions, including League involvement in the Gautreaux case **which concerned** construction of low income housing (1969) *The revised court orders from the 1966 Gatreux Case still governs the CHA's administration of its Scattered-Site Housing Program.*

Though housing for displaced tenants when public housing is demolished is a federal responsibility, the city should actively seek funding for such tenants to be sure none are left homeless. The city should assure that a city agency provides for centrally supervised, uniformly available counseling services and assistance to low income people seeking housing. It should seek to contract to provide such services for agencies such as the CHA **which is** now required to provide them for their displaced tenants. The city should encourage rehabilitation of existing housing where feasible and where it can be done promptly so that derelict buildings do not become neighborhood hazards.

The city should *continue* to encourage partnerships to create multi-family mixed-income rental units. It should encourage coordination of the requirements and deadlines of public and private funding agencies and set basic rules in order to expedite the process **of rebuilding**. Planning of city departments should be coordinated with community-based organizations and community representatives to reflect neighborhood priorities, but should assure safeguards against discrimination on account of race or socioeconomic status.

A city agency should *continue to* collect reports on the federal monitoring of **lending priorities, anti-foreclosure measures, predatory lending**, anti-redlining legislation, and **compliance with** the Community Reinvestment Act. **Such reports should be submitted to the city council and made available to the public**, with specific information on banks, insurance firms and others **doing business with and** in the city of Chicago.

Developers of housing should be required to set aside low-income units as a condition for doing business in the city. These units should be built and occupied simultaneously with the middle and upper income units. Public housing residents should be required to contribute to their rent, however small the amount.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE

### OFFICERS: 2009-2011

**For Secretary: Norma Braude** returned to Chicago from Fredonia, New York where she had been active in the League and had written for the *Buffalo News*. She has served as our Secretary for an extended term and has brought with her expertise on fiscal matters in governmental issues. Her current task is working on the update of the *Tax Maze* booklet. For Briefing Sessions, she often takes notes and provides reviews of the meeting. Her car is often transportation for Unit 21/35 of which she is a member.

**For Treasurer: Rochelle Riffer** has piloted us through the difficult fiscal reorganization of the Chicago League. For her extraordinary service as Treasurer she received the Greensfelder-Elam Award in 2007. As a CPA with Draper and Kramer she brings us the know-how which has enabled the Chicago League to repay its debts and to be on a firmer foundation. She has been a Leaguer for some time and was Unit Leader for Unit 1 our original downtown evening unit. Today she attends Unit 1/5 when possible.

### BOARD MEMBERS: Two year term 2009-2011

**Clara Fleming** has served on the Chicago League Board since before its reorganization. With her background in Health she led the study which formed the LWVUS Health position. As Development Chair she co-chaired the State of the City® (SOC) luncheon last year and her work this year has been invaluable. A member of Unit 66/74 she also is a Greensfelder/Elam awardee. With the emphasis on Health Care from the National League, she will be keeping us abreast of positions, activities and actions which we should be taking as Leaguers.

**Bernice Fortini**, the present co-chair of the State of the City® luncheon has worked tirelessly to make that activity a success. Doubling as the Membership Chair for the Chicago League, she has been monitoring the Chicago Public Library and its operation for several years. She served on the Program

Board before reorganization and received the Greensfelder/Elam award in 2008. She chairs Unit 22.

**Patricia (Pat) Graunke** will be a new member of the Chicago League Board of Directors. She is originally from Glen Ellyn where she worked with the College of DuPage to connect high school students with college. When she moved to Chicago, she joined Unit 22, and was immediately pressed into service on the State of the City® committee, which she co-chaired this year. She will bring her suburban/urban view as she works with the Chicago League.

**Beverly (Bev) Meyer** has served the Chicago League on the Program Board before reorganization and on the new Board. She chaired the SOC when it was a dinner before it was a luncheon and has worked on that committee for many years including this last one. For the Theater Party in 2007 she was co-chair with Clara Fleming. Beginning with Cable TV work for the Chicago League, she arranged aldermanic debates and Edna Pardo's appearance on "What Price Good Education." She is active in Unit 22.

**Terry Williams** has been our long term Voter Service chair. She maintains the roster and makes connections for Chicago League members to be Deputy Registrars (reminder, you must re-register this year) and was the Editor of the *Chicago Voter*. Terry continues to monitor the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners and keeps us up-to-date on election issues and new procedures. She is a member of Unit 22.

### BOARD MEMBER: One year term 2009-2010

**Margaret Herring** doubles as Unit Leader for the downtown evening Unit 1/5. Her expertise in working for the government in the Environmental Protection Agency provides us with invaluable assistance in matters of Natural Resources. She also coordinates the Legislative Interviews which are done after each election.

Nominating Committee  
Patricia Graunke – Chair  
Marcia Friddle, Marlene Heinlein  
Margaret Herring, Winnie Slusser

**Continuing Officers and Board Members  
terms ending in 2010.**

President: Esta Kallen

Vice Presidents:

Helene Gabelnick, Pamela Stauffer

Board members: Margaret Goldstein, Winnie Slusser, Lois Snyder and Carol Westerlund.

Edna Pardo serves as an Honorary Board member *emerita*.

**Annual Meeting Action**

The Nominating Committee has not produced a slate for the Nominating committee for 2009-2010. This one-year committee is charged with finding nominees for the succeeding years' Officers and Board of Directors members as well as the next Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee members elected at the Annual Meeting may not be members of the Board of Directors at the same time. Two other Committee members are selected by the Board of Directors at a later date. Since there is no slate, nominations will be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting – consent of the nominee having been obtained.

According to our bylaws, nominations for any of the positions to be filled may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting; consent of the nominee is the necessary for this process.

**Further Program Action:**

All positions presently in the publication *Where We Stand* 2003-2005 are retained as *is* except for those printed on pages three, four and five of this publication.

CONCURRENCE on change on page three in the Education Position. This will amend the present position.

CONCURRENCE on changes on page four and five on the Housing Position. This will replace the present position.

RECOMMENDED: STUDY/UPDATE: Education – Governance with special emphasis on Local School Councils and their equivalent in Charter and Contract Schools. The intent is to bring this position up-to-date with the present laws, the

configuration and requirement for members of these councils/boards.

Note: If this is completed by 2010, the Education Committee may bring its recommendations to that annual meeting with consideration of the next step in updating the Education position.

A study of a Non-Recommended item may be recommended from the floor.

**Action Focus:** Suggestions for the Action Focus for the next biennium will need to originate from the floor.

**THE RAFFLE  
LWV Chicago Afghan**

Our Operating Fund does not directly benefit from the State of the City® luncheon, and it is the Operating Fund which is used for activities which are NOT tax deductible. Part of office expenses, PMP and political action on issues come under this 501-C-4 heading.

We have received permission from LWVIL to raffle off the patriotic afghan (see photo on the back of the Annual Meeting reservation form) made by Chicago Leaguers at the June State Convention in East Peoria. You will be receiving solicitations to purchase tickets to benefit the Operating Fund. Please respond to this plea. You do not have to be present to win.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and the only cost of this activity is the fees required for a raffle by state and local governments. We hope that this will enable us to meet our operational needs for the Chicago League.

<b>The Chicago Voter</b>	
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

**ANNUAL MEETING  
OF  
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHICAGO  
SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2009**

**MITY NICE GRILL  
WATER TOWER PLACE  
835 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE  
MEZZANINE LEVEL**

**REGISTRATION: 8:30 AM  
CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 AM  
ADJOURNMENT 11:30 AM**

**We ask that you be on time so that we may  
Adopt a budget  
Accept an audit report  
Receive reports  
Elect Officers and Board of Directors  
Adopt two positions by concurrence  
Adopt program item for the biennium  
Consider action items for the year  
\$15.00 to cover some of the costs  
RSVP by June 15<sup>th</sup> to the League Office**

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of Reservations** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check enclosed for** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to League of Women Voters of Chicago  
332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1150  
Chicago, IL 60604**

**THIS IS THE LWV CHICAGO AFGHAN TO BE RAFFLED OFF AT THE  
LWVIL STATE CONVENTION IN EAST PEORIA ON JUNE 13, 2009.**

**TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED FROM BOARD MEMBERS OR  
THROUGH THE LWV CHICAGO OFFICE.**

**PLEASE SUPPORT US.**

