



# The Chicago Voter

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

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<p><b>Dates To Remember</b></p> <p>Meetings held at the League Office Unless otherwise Noted</p> <p>Monday, May 2 Social Policy Committee 10:00 am – noon</p> <p>Executive Committee Call of the co-presidents</p> <p>Monday, May 9 Board Meeting 5:45 pm</p>	<p><b>CO-PRESIDENT’S COLUMN</b></p> <p>Dear Members, Many of you are probably aware by now that Winnie Slusser, LWVChicago member for more than fifty years, passed away on April 16. Please read the following article for more about her very active life.</p> <p>Looking forward to League activities in May and June, we have an important briefing on Public Education Saturday, May 14 at 10 AM in our office. This meeting is the beginning of the LWVUS Study on “The Federal Role in Public Education.” Our newspapers and television reports about present and future conditions of our schools should be of the highest order for all Americans. You don’t have to be in a LWV unit in order to attend. We would like your participation. Background information is in this Voter.</p> <p>Saturday, June 18 is our Annual Meeting. We will present the slate of officers, budget and discuss plans for next year. Please plan to attend. Spring is on the way. <i>Esta</i></p>
<p>Saturday, May 14 Education Briefing 10 am to Noon</p> <p>Monday, May 16 LWV Cook County Annual Meeting University Center</p> <p>Friday thru Sunday June 10 to 12 LWVIL State Convention Skokie</p> <p>Saturday, June 18 LWVChicago Annual Meeting 9:30 am to 12:30 pm Room 430</p> <p><b>Any other meetings Call the League Office 312-939-5935 x28</b></p>	<p><b>WINNIE SLUSSER</b> <b>SEPTEMBER 23, 1928 – APRIL 16, 2011</b></p> <p>Winnie Slusser was an active member of LWVChicago since 1950. She was an officer, board member, local government observer, Voter editor, and chaired numerous committees including Education, Program Planning, Agriculture, Women’s Issues, By-Laws, Action as well serving on other LWV Chicago committees. Always devoted to LWVChicago, she volunteered in our office when needed as long as she was able.</p> <p>Winnie also served on the Cook County LWV Task Force on School Desegregation and was on that board as Secretary.</p> <p>Education was her passion. Winnie was the daughter and mother of Chicago Public School teachers. She served Chicago Region PTA as Legislation Chair, Special Education Chair, Vice-President and President. She was President of the District 24 Education Council and a member of the City Wide Advisory Committee on Desegregation. Mayor Harold Washington appointed Winnie to the Chicago Board of Education in 1986 and she served until 1989.</p> <p>Winnie was a 1950 graduate of Northwestern with a BSEE. She and her husband had five children all of whom are college graduates.</p> <p>Winnie was a “Leaguer” extraordinaire. Her studies in parliamentary procedure kept us focused. Her knowledge of League issues and their relevance to today’s society provided for many interesting discussions. The loss of Winnie Slusser will be felt by LWVChicago into the future.</p> <p>There will be a Memorial Service for Winnie on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM with reception following at Church of the Atonement, 5749 N. Kenmore Ave.</p>

## RUNOFF ELECTION IN CHICAGO

The Chicago Aldermanic runoff election was held in 14 wards on April 5. The turnout averaged only 28% city wide with the range from a low of 14% in the 15<sup>th</sup> ward to a high of 39% in the 41<sup>st</sup> ward. All turnout rates were less than the turnout for the initial election on February 22. In the 45<sup>th</sup> ward only 30 votes out of 12,136 separated the winner from the loser demonstrating the importance of an individual vote. It is interesting to note that in Cook County outside of Chicago the average voter turnout was 16% for the elections held on April 5.

*Helene Gabelnick*

## CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL

All of the recently elected executive officers and aldermen of Chicago will be sworn in on Monday, May 16. With a new Mayor, City Clerk and 13 new aldermen the Council will be quite different from its current makeup. The City faces major challenges and LWVChicago will try to monitor its progress dealing with them.

LWVChicago will be printing the Addendum to the State of the City<sup>®</sup> Guide to Local Government as soon as the new aldermen have decided on their local office locations. The addendum will be mailed to all attendees and donors to the Luncheon.

## PETRA DEMYSTIFIED

Following is a report on the housing meeting held on April 16 with presentations by Herb Ziegeldorf, a HUD retiree and H. Demetrius Bonner, President of the National Alliance of HUD tenants.

Preservation, Enhancement, and Transformation of Rental Assistance (PETRA) is legislation hoping to do as its name suggests. At present much of the federally sponsored low income housing stock is in BAD shape. Hopefully PETRA will help to preserve it.

In 1937 President Roosevelt was arm-twisted into building public housing to give people a place to live and a job to build it. Housing was supposed to be in the hands of the private developer and they fought it vigorously. "It is contrary to the genius of the American people and the ideals they have established that government become landlord to its citizens." From the beginning there was never enough money appropriated to fund *operating*

expenses and NO funding to cover *maintenance*. The early Federal subsidy covered only the debt service on the state government bonds funding construction. By the 1960's many white tenants had moved out and minority tenants moved in, making the program easier to stigmatize. As an alternative to raising rents for maintenance, Senator Edward Brooke successfully sponsored legislation that capped the resident's share of rent at 25% (later 30%) of adjusted income. In 1992 HOPE VI was created to replace Low Income Housing with *mixed income housing*. When units were destroyed, people were given vouchers to take with them to find housing with willing private owners. In this case, the *voucher stayed with the household* as people moved. If the housing was privately owned with *project based contracts*, the support stayed with the *housing*, not the tenant.

As a result of Hope VI, 150,000 units of low income public housing were lost, (Remember the demise of the CHA high rises?) the supportive communities were destroyed, and 160,000 *privately owned HUD subsidized units*, were lost as well. Of the remaining 1.2 million units, current estimates are that they need \$30 billion in rehab and repairs. The original short sighted estimates were that rents would cover repairs. In Hope VI, there was to be one-for-one replacement in mixed income housing with one privately owned unit, one market rate rental, and one low income unit. But only a fraction of these were built. Thousands of vouchers were given to families that allowed them 120 days to seek housing in the private market; this time could be extended. But the housing market could already be almost saturated as it is today with foreclosed families seeking rentals.

One good thing about PETRA is that it simplifies the 13 housing programs of HUD. It would change the funding structure to leverage capital from the private housing market for repairs. To preserve public housing, individuals owning buildings with HUD supported tenants could get mortgages to repair the building on the basis of the guaranteed future rents. But in the case of an owner wanting to seek a foreclosure, they would have to first offer it to HUD for purchase. Then HUD could threaten to take away the building and offer it to a mission-oriented or non-profit group. In this case, the owner would usually agree to keep the building and make the necessary repairs. PETRA plans to preserve public housing through private investment *in perpetuity*.

*Lois Snyder*

## LWVUS EDUCATION STUDY

LWVChicago will have a briefing on this study on Saturday, May 14, 10 AM to noon. This meeting will discuss the procedures for the work on this important National study. The consensus questions are scheduled to be available on the web site in mid-May.

LWVUS has four background study papers on its web site, LWV.org:

1. "Role Of Federal Government In Public Education: Historical Perspectives"
2. "Funding and Equity Issues"
3. "Common Core Standards and Assessments"
4. "Early Childhood Education, Equity and Funding".

**Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives** was summarized by Winnie Slusser.

This paper is an excellent introduction to the history of both LWVUS positions and the federal role over the years. The League itself has specific positions which were reached by consensus on Integration, Quality Education, Tuition Tax Credits, Federal Programs, Education, and Education Financing.

"Some of the programs are designed to meet the needs of special education students, economically disadvantaged and ethnic minority children." In addition LWVUS worked for the prohibition of sex discrimination in those schools receiving federal aid and under the position for early intervention for children at-risk.

The original help for schools came in the form of land grants from the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. These grants were given to the states for the support of public schools. Some direct funding from federal revenue and reimbursement of war expenses came also to the schools in the first century of the new nation. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century vocational training and further land grants were made and an Office of Education was created.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Vocational Education became a focus, the Smith-Hughes Act in 1917 followed by the George-Barden Act in 1946, which included agriculture, industrial arts and home economics for high school students.

Aid to offset the tax loss of military and other federal installations was provided by the Lanham Act of 1941 and the Impact Aid laws of 1950. The GI bill (1944) provided for assistance to WWII veterans for college expenses.

Desegregation was the issue in the landmark decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. The National Defense Education Act (NDEA) was the response to Sputnik in 1958. Anti-poverty and civil rights laws included Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, Title IX of 1971 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which prohibits discrimination based on race, sex and disability.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was originally passed in 1965. Title I of this act provides support to disadvantaged students in primary and secondary education through funding of professional development, instructional material and resources to support education programs and parental involvement. The latest reauthorization of this act is No Child Left Behind (NCLB) of 2001.

The Department of Education, at the Cabinet level, was established in 1980. **A Nation at Risk** was published in 1983 and brought the competitive nature of education into the picture.

Public school choice, education for Hispanics and Native Americans and drug education all occurred under President George H. W. Bush's term. In 1991 he formed the National Education Goals Panel to create a system to move toward the education goals for 2000. At the same time the question of national standards came to the forefront. Reauthorization of ESEA is on the table, and has been for several years. "Areas of debate include school choice, accountability, teacher quality, goals, standards and above all, funding."

### UNIT MEETINGS

Unit 1/5 Downtown – evening  
Monday, May 16 – 5:30 pm  
LWV Office  
Leader – Margaret Herring

Unit 9/11 West Side – daytime  
Sunday, May 22 – 2:00 pm  
Call Joan Morton for location  
Leader – Joan Morton

Unit 21/35  
Wednesday, May 11 – 12 noon  
Home of Esta Kallen  
Leader – Carol Ziegeldorf

Unit 22 Downtown – daytime  
No meeting in May  
Leader – Bernice Fortini

Unit 66/74  
Daytime – Montgomery Place  
Thursday, May 19 – 1:00 pm  
Leader – Dorothy Scheff

## LWVUS

With all of the budget activity in the US Congress in recent weeks LWVUS has asked us to contact our US Senators and Representatives on issues such as clean air, health care reform, and campaign finance. They are also actively lobbying in areas of climate change and voting rights.

## LWVIL

### LWVIL State Convention

MAP THE FUTURE

June 10-12, 2011

Skokie, Illinois

See LWVIL.org for details

### Redistricting for the General Assembly

The Illinois General Assembly has been holding hearings on redistricting in various locations around the state.

The remaining portion of the official timeline is:

#### June 30, 2011:

If no redistricting plan becomes effective by this date, a Legislative Redistricting Commission shall be constituted.

#### July 10, 2011:

Deadline for the formation of Redistricting Commission. The Commission shall consist of eight members, no more than four of whom shall be members of the same political party.

#### August 10, 2011:

Deadline for Redistricting Commission to file an approved plan with the Secretary of State approved by at least five members.

#### September 1, 2011:

If the Redistricting Commission fails to file an approved plan, the Supreme Court shall submit the names of two persons, not of the same political party, to the Secretary of State no later than this date.

#### September 5, 2011:

No later than this date the Secretary of State shall draw by random selection the name of one of the two persons to serve as the ninth member of the Commission.

#### October 5, 2011:

Last day for Redistricting Commission to file a redistricting plan with the Secretary of State approved by at least five members.

LWVIL has asked the redistricting committee to provide for public comment on proposed maps before they are voted on by the General Assembly. Watch for news on this important process. See: [ILhousedems.com/redistricting](http://ILhousedems.com/redistricting) for further information.

## LWVCC

### 2011 LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING and LUNCHEON

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011

9:30am to 1pm

University Center – 525 S. State St - Chicago

### Business

All members of the local leagues in Cook County are also members of LWV Cook County, and are encouraged to attend. Voting for new officers and the budget for the next fiscal year will occur. There will be reports from the LWVCC on their recent study of Special Purpose Funds in the County Budget, and from the four working Interest Groups. There will also be an opportunity to bid on some interesting items as part of the Silent Auction, a fundraising effort for LWVCC that helps to maintain PMP levels at the same rate they have been for several years.

### Program

Cook County Commissioners Panel Discussion  
Commissioner Bridget Gainer (D-10<sup>th</sup> District)  
Commissioner Timothy Schneider (R-15<sup>th</sup> Dist.)

[Cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org](http://Cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org) has further details.

## LWVChicago

The LWVChicago Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 18 from 9:30AM to 12:30 PM at 332 S. Michigan Ave. in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. The official Annual Meeting Voter coming out in mid-May will have information and registration materials for that meeting.

### ***The Chicago Voter***

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