



The Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago

October 2009

Website - www.LWVChicago.org

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DATES TO REMEMBER

MEETINGS HELD AT THE LEAGUE OFFICE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Social Policy Committee Meeting
Monday, October 5th
10:00 am to noon

Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, October 5th
Call of the President

Chicago LWV Board Meeting
Monday, October 12th
5:30 pm

**Health Care Forum
Monday, October 19th
1:00 to 3:00 pm
Harold Washington College**

Development Committee
State of the City
Contact: Clara Fleming
or Bernice Fortini

Education Committee Meeting
Contact: Winnie Slusser

Membership Committee Meeting
Contact: Bernice Fortini

Structure of Cook County Government Briefing
All Member Meeting
Saturday, November 7th
10:00 am to noon

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear League Members,

I hope you are enjoying these last few weeks of summer. We had beautiful weather Saturday, September 12th for the Architecture Foundation cruise on the Chicago river. We have a number of new events planned that are informative, good for getting together with other Leaguers and **free!**

Saturday, September 26th was the all-member meeting and briefing on the Census and Redistricting. An accurate count will help us obtain the funding from the national government that our city and state needs. Illinois could lose at least one representative in Congress if everyone is not counted. The speaker was Mary Schaafsma, who works with the LWVIL on this project. For additional information contact Mary at the LWVIL office, 312-939-5935 x 39 or Marys@lwwil.org.

Monday, October 19th at 1:00 pm is a panel discussion on Health Care. Clara Fleming has an article in this **Voter** on the subject. This is a public meeting and we would appreciate it if you would spread the word, come yourself, and bring a friend. The meeting will be held at Harold Washington College in a room which should accommodate more than the League's Conference Room or the one in our building.

Do the actions of the Cook County Board of Commissioners confuse you? A speaker from the Cook County League will discuss this at our meeting on Saturday, November 7th. This will be in the League Conference Room and will require you to call the office the Thursday before (November 5th) so that we may notify building security that you will be in the building on a Saturday. The phone number is 939-5935 ext. 28.

On Thursday, November 12th at 7:00 pm, the Chicago LWV is co-sponsoring a meeting with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Roosevelt University Pre-Law Department on the subject of Reproductive Choice. This meeting will focus on the parental notification aspect of Illinois law. The League of Women Voters of the United States has a position in favor of the woman's right to make her own choices about reproduction which dates from the early 1980's. This is a public meeting and we encourage you to invite friends and members of like-minded organizations. The meeting will take place at Roosevelt University.

With elections scheduled for February and November of next year, the Chicago LWV will be taking part in a student voter registration project. We will need the participation of many members to make it successful. This is a County-wide project.

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YOU ARE NEEDED AS AN ELECTION JUDGE

The most important people in the polling place on election days are the election judges. The full crew of judges is necessary, and they must know what they are doing. The poll watching project found this to be the single factor which had the greatest effect on the entire voting process.

What is required - You must be a registered voter and able to serve on Election Day from 5:00 am to approximately 9:00 pm. You may be asked to go to the polling place the evening before to set up. You must attend a training session and will be given election judge material to study. Additional training is necessary to be an "equipment manager."

You will be paid \$170 if you attend the training session and work the full day. Additional pay is given if you are a "supply judge," an "equipment manager" or if you are one of two judges who returns the "ballot bag" to the receiving station.

To apply for Chicago contact your ward committee person of the political party of your choice. You may download an application from the Chicago Board of Elections, following the directions on www.chicagoelections.com. "Serving as a Judge of Election" is the choice.

Slots not filled by the ward committee persons are then filled by the Chicago Board of Elections prior to the election.

Some Useful Tips: Besides studying the manual ahead of time, wear comfortable clothes. Take along reading material for slow times. Bring water as well as food. If you can, take advantage of early voting.

WHAT ABOUT BEING A DEPUTY REGISTRAR?

Be able to register people to vote! The Chicago League of Women Voters is one of the submitting organizations for this activity. If you are interested, contact Terry Williams in the Chicago office 312-939-5935-ext. 28 and she will help register you for one of their training sessions. All Chicago Board of Election Commissioner training is conducted at 69 W.

Washington St., 8th floor conference room. Registration for the afternoon sessions (3:00 pm) closes at 3:00 pm the day before. Registration for the morning sessions (9:00 am) and evening sessions (6:00 pm) closes two days before at 3:00 pm.

Sign up with Terry and do a "leaguey" thing. You can register people anywhere; all you need to do is take the training.

October 2009

Wednesday October 7th – 3:00 pm
Saturday, October 17th – 9:30 am
Wednesday, October 28th – 6:00 pm

November 2009

Wednesday, November 4th – 3:00 pm
Saturday, November 14th – 9:30 am
Wednesday, November 18th – 6:00 pm

December 2009

Wednesday, December 2nd – 3:00 pm
Saturday, December 12th – 9:30 am
Wednesday, December 16th – 6:00 pm

DO YOU HAVE EMAIL?

If you are receiving *The Chicago Voter* by email, we have your address. If by snail mail, will you be so kind as to give us your email – for two reasons, one: it saves money in printing and mailing the *Voter* (email is cheaper) and two: you will then also receive the Chicago League Weekly which lists far more meetings than will be found in the *Voter*. This service includes all dates in the *Voter* plus others in which you may be interested.

Calling for more active members of the League of Women Voters of Chicago

**Be an Observer
Go to Unit Meetings or
Form a New Unit**

INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH CARE

As the Congress comes back from their month long recess it is again time to get back to work on the bills being proposed for health care reform. All of them have heard from their constituents on what is important to them. Many have been given opposing views to consider.

It is confusing to decipher the strengths/ weaknesses of each bill. How will they resolve the differences and develop a compromise bill that provides health care reform that controls cost while covering more than 46 millions uninsured?

The Obama-Biden plan calls for following:

- Invest in Electronic Health Information Technology Systems
- Improve Access to Prevention and Proven Disease Management Programs
- Lower Costs By Taking on Anticompetitive Actions in the Drug and Insurance Companies
- Reduce Costs of Catastrophic Illnesses for Employers and Their Employees
- Affordable, Accessible Coverage Options For All
- Promoting Prevention & Strengthening Public Health

For our Health Care Briefing scheduled for October 19, 2009, we have invited Jonathan Vanderberg from the Campaign for Better Health Care; Dr. Quenton Young from Physicians for a National Health Insurance; Danny Chun from the Illinois Hospital Association; and Courtney Hedderman from AARP (The American Association of Retired Persons). Robin Gabel, Executive Director of Illinois Maternal and Child Health will be our moderator.

Join us at 12:30 to meet and greet. The discussion will be from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at Harold Washington College, 30 E. Lake St. in Chicago. The room will be announced in a flyer which is forthcoming.

Please try to attend this meeting to provide yourself with the essential information to make your own assessment and so you can talk with your Congresspersons about your individual interests.

Clara B. Fleming - Health Care Chairman

WHY UNITS?

Units are designed to provide small discussion groups on items of League interest. They serve to provide more information than is available from the internet and/or briefing sessions on a topic. We ask the units to send a representative to briefings who will then lead the discussion at the Unit Meeting. Free and open discussions are the basis and strength of League positions. Positions at the national level hold for all the lower levels. State positions hold for the state, County for the County and Chicago for the city.

Units are a necessity to reaching consensus on an item studied by the League. Consensus is a League term, it is not a vote but is a compilation of the sense of the meeting, giving weight to the areas of agreement, but refraining from taking a position on areas of disagreement. Positions adopted through this consensus method have proved to withstand the test of time. Where there is no meeting of the minds, there can be no consensus.

Unit Meetings

Unit 1/5 – Downtown - Evening
Fourth Monday
October 26th - 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
Thursday, October 29th
10:00 am - League Office

Unit 41/42 – Southwest side
Day/Evening Unit
Contact the Chicago League office

Unit 66/74 - South Side – Hyde Park
Unit at Montgomery Place
Third Thursday
October 22nd at 1:30 pm

LWVUS NEWS

LWVUS web site has a page dedicated to the League's 90th anniversary! Members can update their own information by selecting any webpage from the "For Membership" menu on the national website and then selecting the "Update your Information" menu item. Using the menu on the left-hand side of the page, you can also subscribe or unsubscribe to any League-sponsored list and/or indicate the issue areas that are of interest to you.

The LWVUS opposes the amendment intended to block carbon pollution regulation but gives thanks to senators for supporting the JUSTICE Act.

In addition, be aware that a new group, called the League of American Voters, is attacking the League of Women Voters nationally by sending out misinformation and misleading people.

LWVIL NEWS

LWVIL is opposing the new video gaming tax. This is a long term position opposing the use of gaming to solve Illinois fiscal problems.

In addition, the LWVIL is insisting that health care reform must include a public option. An online form is on the LWVIL website to lobby your congressman or compose your own letter.

Focus on challenges and consequences of the 2010 Census – *True Census Counts: Everybody Counts* is off to a good start. Chicago LWV will try to have material available to those who did not attend the September 26 meeting and whose unit is not meeting on the subject.

The LWVIL has joined the newly created coalition – the Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC) which "brings together many diverse organizations that represent and serve millions of Illinois residents" and because it believes Illinois "has a moral and legal obligation to protect public safety, safeguard public health, strengthen our economy and ensure that every individual has the opportunity to thrive." Coalition members are committed to building "the support needed to solve the Illinois' budget crisis, prevent harmful cuts to essential public services, save jobs, eliminate the state's

long-term structural deficit and provide Illinoisans with relief from regressive taxation." Questions may be addressed to the LWVIL specialists Claire McIntyre, Fiscal Policy/School Funding or Jan Kay, Social Policy.

LWVCC

As a result of the Poll Reporting Project during the last election, the LWVCC identified that one of the biggest impediments to having a smooth voting experience was the lack of election judges. On page 2 of this **Voter** you will find the information on being an election judge.

Save Tuesday, November 10th from 11:30 am to 1 pm for "Lunch & Learn with the League of Women Voters of Cook County" featuring Cook County Assessor James Houlihan on "Demystifying the Property Assessment Process." This fund raiser will be held at the DePaul Club at the DePaul University Center, 11th floor, 1 E. Jackson. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Reservations and a check made out to the League of Women Voters of Cook County are due by Monday November 2nd with information including your name, address, phone, email and League with choice of ham, turkey or vegetarian sandwich. Send this to Priscilla Mims, 325A N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302. Come and bring a guest or guests.

LWVCHICAGO

Please join us for the Forum on Health Care – the information on this issue is on page 3 of this **Voter**.

The Chicago Voter

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