



THE VOTER

Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters

February, 2011

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Cautious, careful people, always casting about to preserve their reputation and social standing, never can bring about a reform— Susan B. Anthony

It's January and that means...drum roll please... Program Planning time! I hope everyone will come this Saturday, January 29th, having read our local and state positions and brimming with ideas to take our League forward as 2011 rolls into 2012. The ideas you bring to us on Saturday will be considered by the membership, and then maybe adopted at the 2011 Annual Meeting as our new program, which will take us where you want your League to go in the future. How Program Planning works is posted on our website-please visit it to learn more. Everyone's opinions are considered.

We had a very busy fall and holiday season. Thank you Cleo Burtis for organizing our informative November unit meeting on the Illinois Budget. Thanks to Carrie Burrows, Lucy Dallman, and Midge Anderson for organizing our holiday fundraisers in the village. Thanks to all of you who shopped that night, I am happy to report that we made nearly \$200 from the Ten Thousand Village, Skywriters and Saret fundraisers. Now that we have had a nice long winter break I hope everyone is ready to roll up your sleeves and pitch in because we have a busy spring planned and we need your help! You will be surprised to find that the more you contribute to League the more you get back in satisfaction, happiness, kudos, and a general sense of contributing to make your community a better place!

What is there to do? Plenty! Our nominating committee is looking for a few good leaders, call Sherry Crumbaugh to help. In March we are planning for the spring non-partisan Candidate Forum, please call Diana Hoke to volunteer. In February we are working to build a program to help us understand what is going on with our village leadership. It seems everyone is leaving us at once. How will we maintain continuity? We have a new Book Club meeting scheduled with a very fun book to read. Great Decisions is ongoing. The Delivery of Mental Health Services study is on-going. The State League's February 5th Issues briefing is coming up. We have Phonathon, Annual Meeting and more!

State league is busy working to persuade Governor Quinn to sign the bill that would abolish the Death Penalty. I encourage you to write him to tell him how YOU feel. National League is busy working to keep things civilized and transparent in Congress, and here in Glen Ellyn, the League board has decided to urge our village government to adopt an ethics ordinance. You are welcome to come along for the ride. We would love to have you!

Ginger Wheeler

President (630) 835-6959

Call or text me any time or email me at: gingerlw@aol.com

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CALENDAR

- Jan 29th— Program Planning Brunch, The Meadows, 8:30 a.m.-noon
- Feb 5th-ILWV Issue Briefing, Chicago 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Feb 17th-Unit Mtg, Village Leadership, Civic Center, 7:30 p.m.
- March 20th-Candidate Forum, Glen Crest
- April 5th-Consolidated Election. Polls open 6 a.m.-7 p.m.
- April 28th-Annual Mtg, Glen Oak CC, 6:30 p.m.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please welcome our newest member: Judy Wagner. Our membership now stands at 104.

Do you know of anyone who might be interested in joining our League? You are the best ambassadors League has. Your enthusiasm for our organization is contagious. Feel free to invite guests to any of our meetings or events. Or forward their names, addresses, and email addresses to me, and I will add them to our prospective member list. They will then receive emails and copies of our *Voter*. Have you ever considered giving a League membership as a gift? It's certainly a gift that keeps on giving all year. Membership in our local League automatically enrolls members in the LWV of Illinois and LWVUS.

If you are receiving this newsletter and are not currently a member NOW is the time to join. By joining League between January 1 and May 1 of 2011 your dues will count for the 2011-2012 year as well as the remainder of this fiscal year. That means you will not need to pay dues again until May, 2012! You receive 16 months of benefits for the price of a one year membership! Single membership dues are \$60 and an additional member at the same address is \$30. Make checks payable to LWVGE and send it along with your email address and telephone number to Dorothy Hess, 629 Pleasant Ave., Glen Ellyn, 60137.

Dorothy Hess, Membership Chair (630) 858-8768 Email: dazhess@aol.com

ARE YOU GETTING OUR E-BLASTS?

In an effort to get you the most up to date information about our programs and activities we are sending out e-blasts. These are emails that are sent to your email address that we have on record. All e-blasts will come from info@lwvge.org. These are not junk emails so please do not delete them and make sure that you open them! You can also visit our website at www.lwvge.org or you can now follow our League on Facebook and on Twitter @GELeaguer.

Are you receiving information from the local, state and national Leagues via email? If you have computer access and League has your email address, you should be receiving information from all three sources. You can check your membership information by registering and logging on at <http://www.lwv.org>. You can also add your email address in the green box at the top of the welcome page to become an e-activist and receive the latest news and information from national.

LWVGE BOOK CLUB

All are invited to join us on Saturday, March 5th at 9:00 a.m. for a discussion of our next book selection, Wingnuts: How the Lunatic Fringe is Hijacking America by Jon Avlon. All of our meetings are held at Michelle Peterson's, 579 Riford Rd., Glen Ellyn. Copies of the book will be available at the Glen Ellyn Public Library starting February 5th. Go to the 2nd floor reference desk and ask for the LWV book club selection. Coffee, tea and freshly made treats are provided so stop in and visit with friends! Questions? Call Shawn Fasules (630)790-1966 or Michelle Peterson (630) 858-2336.



FEBRUARY UNIT MEETING

Please join us on February 17th at the Civic Center at 7:30 p.m. for a program on Village Leadership. As you are all well aware many of our administrators at the Village and at the Park District have recently resigned. Representatives from the park district and the village will be on hand to explain what are the next steps and how they will maintain continuity during this transition period. It is sure to be an informative meeting so bring a friend.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

In preparation for the upcoming Consolidated Election in April, Voter Services will once again be sponsoring candidate forums. It is tentatively set for Sunday afternoon, March 20th at Glen Crest Middle School. Candidates in contested races (School Districts 41, 87, 89, the Glen Ellyn Park District, and possibly COD) will be on hand to present their viewpoints and respond to questions from the audience. Please watch for further updates via e-blasts and postcards. Also, in order to make these events a success, we really need volunteers. Please call Diana Hoke at (630) 351-8523 to volunteer.

VILLAGE ETHICS ORDINANCE

The following letter was sent to the Village Board on 1/21/11

Dear President Pfefferman and Board of Trustees:

Our organization is writing to strongly urge you and the board of trustees to support an ethics ordinance for the Village of Glen Ellyn. We are basing our position on the support that our national parent organization and its coalition partners have provided for the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE), a critically important ethics reform from the last Congress that is believed [to be] an essential new component of government reform.

We strongly urge you to seek ways to strengthen any existing ethics rules and standards in order to ensure that members of the board and village employees, as well as vendors who benefit from taxpayer funded contracts, are held to the high ethical standards that citizens expect from those who exercise great power over their daily lives. We further urge you to oppose any efforts to weaken or back-track on ethics rules and standards of conduct that might protect the integrity of Glen Ellyn's village government and the interests of its residents. This is in accordance with statements the League of Women Voters of the US has made to Congress in regards to the ethics rules of Congress itself.

In conclusion, we urge you to take all steps necessary to create and, where necessary, strengthen ethics rules and standards of conduct that exist to protect the interests of residents in an honest and ethical government for the Village of Glen Ellyn.

Sincerely,

Ginger Wheeler, President

League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn

NEWS FROM LWVUS

(For more information visit the website at www.lwvus.org)

League Urges Representatives to Oppose Repeal of Presidential Public Financing

The League and coalition groups sent a letter to the House of Representatives urging them to oppose repeal of presidential public financing. Repeal legislation would eliminate a system which has given average citizens and small donors a critically important role to play in funding our presidential campaigns.

League Urges Senate to Oppose Repeal of Affordable Care Act

League President Elisabeth MacNamara sent a letter to Senators urging them to oppose repeal of the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010.

League Urges Senate to Bring New START Treaty to Senate Floor

League President Elisabeth MacNamara joined with the heads of other concerned organizations to urge Senate leadership to bring the new START Treaty to the Senate floor. The START Treaty was signed by President Obama and President Medvedev in April 2010. The START treaty is the first arms control agreement between the U.S. and Russia in nearly a decade. It calls for regular inspections and timely exchanges of information regarding nuclear arsenals.

League Joins Coalition Groups in Urging Reforms in the Senate

The League with coalition partners sent a letter to the Senate urging Senators to make transparency and accountability a priority and to end the needless obstruction that threatens the vibrancy of our democracy due to the filibuster.

League Urges Speaker Boehner to Protect Ethics Standards

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to Speaker Boehner urging him to preserve or strengthen House ethics rules and standards of conduct.

Statement from League President on Tragedy in Tucson, AZ

The LWV joins with all Americans in expressing our shock and dismay at the tragic shootings in Tucson last weekend. We express our deep sorrow to the families of the victims, and offer our sincere hopes for the recovery of Representative Giffords and the other survivors. We applaud the courage of the individuals, thinking they were just out for a Saturday conversation, who took immediate action to help the injured and end the rampage.

What can we make of this madness, this senseless act of violence? And terrible though this event was for all of us now, what might the long term effects be? Will it make public figures-politicians, media figures, celebrities-more mindful of the potentially harmful impact of their angry words-or will everyone continue to put their own agendas first, without regard to the climate they create? Will it make the public more trusting of the patriotic motivation of their elected leaders-or will respect for them be further diminished? Will it make our elected leaders more willing to reach out to meet and hear from their constituents directly-or will it reinforce the growing gap between voters and those they put in office? Will it allow Americans to feel comfortable and welcome in the public space-or will they conclude that it is safer to stay home and drop out of the conversation? It is clearly time for each of us to consider these issues, individually and as a community.

For 90 years, the League has worked to facilitate the civil exchange of different points of view, to bridge the gap between the voters and the elected, and to help improve the functioning of government. We hope that moving forward our nation will come together to foster and strengthen the very essence of our representative democracy: "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

NEWS FROM LWVIL

(For more information visit the website at www.lwvil.org)

LWVIL ANNUAL ISSUES BRIEFING TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 5TH

Please join us on Saturday, February 5th at the University Center, 525 South State Street, Chicago for a wonderful program. The agenda for the day is as follows:

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. to Noon Issues Program New Governor-New Direction?
A political analysis of where Illinois is headed with its deficit, backlog of bills, school funding, health and social services and other important issues.

- Noon to 1p.m. Luncheon
- 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Workshops (select one of four)

Effective Ways to Lobby Springfield in 2011

Redistricting: Where Do We Go From Here and How Do We Get There?

Health Care Reform and Its Impact on Illinois

Pension Reform: Is It Possible? Probable?

Cost is \$50 per person which includes breakfast, lunch, briefing packet and workshop materials. The cost to attend just the morning program is \$35 or the afternoon only (includes lunch and workshop materials) is \$40. To register online go to www.lwvil.org.

LWVIL STATE CONVENTION TO BE HELD JUNE 10-12

Mapping the Future is the theme of the LWVIL 2011 convention scheduled for June 10-12 at the Holiday Inn North Shore, Skokie, IL. Filled with informative workshops and caucuses, convention is where local League representatives approve the LWVIL program for the next two years and elect the state board officers.

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara will be our special guest at this convention. Entertainment at the Saturday night, June 11th dinner will be provided by the Chicago Bar Associations satirical "Bar Show." Convention is a wonderful opportunity to network with other League members, learn more about League, and have an impact on LWVIL's program, budget and bylaws. To volunteer, call the League office at (312) 939-5935.



**Glen Ellyn League of
Women Voters**

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PRESIDENT
Ginger Wheeler

VICE PRESIDENTS
Operations: Lucy Dallman
Programs: Carrie Burrows

**CHECK OUT
OUR WEBSITE**
www.lwvge.org

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate but whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING THIS SATURDAY, JANUARY 29TH

Please join us this Saturday, January 29th for our program planning meeting at The Meadows from 8:30 a.m. to noon. At Program Planning we revisit our League positions, and we make collective decisions about these positions: Do we still need them? Are they outdated? Should we take action based on them? Is something going on that we need to know more about? Should we study it? This year we will be reviewing our state positions as well as our local positions. In preparation for the meeting we suggest that you review our local and state positions. Our local positions are printed on pages 22-31 of your Membership Booklet which you received this fall. Instructions for accessing state league positions online can be found on page 34 of the Membership Booklet. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, and setting direction for the League in the future. Please join us and take part in this vital grassroots tradition!