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League of Women Voters
PO Box 2391
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138
www.glen-ellyn.com/lwv
Cell: 630-881-1490

Presidents

Margaret DeLaRosa 469-5551
mdelarosa@ameritech.net

Membership

Sarah Allen

Acting Editor

Margaret DeLaRosa 469-5551
mdelarosa@ameritech.net

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.

Annual League Year Kick-Off Meeting

Thursday, September 14, 2006, 7:30pm

At

The Meadows

60 Nichol Way, Glen Ellyn

Come and meet and greet our School Districts Superintendents

Dr. Ann Riebock, District 41
Dr. Michael Meissen, High School District 87
Dr. John Perdue, District 89

In addition

Kim Reed will present a brief update on the LWVIL Immigration Study

President's Letter:

Dear Members & Business Sponsors,

From its early years until today the League is an activist, grass roots organization. We believe citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. In addition and more importantly the League maintains a non-partisan position.

As you know the League evolved from the Women's Suffrage movement and was founded just before the 19th amendment was ratified in 1920. Our organization has grown to 900 local leagues with all 50 states represented. The League's focus has always been voter education, initially for the women who gained the right to vote after a 57 year struggle and consistently over the years to bring non-partisan information to the electorate.

This summer I was able to witness our League's history as LWVUS President Maxwell opened the national convention with a strike of Susan B. Anthony's gavel. Grass roots activism drives convention with caucuses and presentations on Redistricting, Healthcare, Environment, International Criminal Court, Ballot Paper trails, Electronic Voting equipment issues, and reports from the LWV New York UN Observers. League is driven at the grass roots level, but well supported at the state and national levels.

I was proud to represent our local league knowing the two major issues of the convention 1. Abolition of the Death Penalty and, 2. Adoption of a 3-year Immigration study were issues that had their beginnings in Illinois before they made it to the national stage. The national stage validated our Illinois consensus to pass a position, and to finance a much needed study.

As we begin our league year, I want every member and business sponsor to know you are part of a larger organization that studies the issues and works toward consensus through informed debate.

Please make time to visit both the LWVUS (<http://www.lwv.org>) and LWVIL (lwvil.org) websites for more information on our positions and priorities for the next two years. You will be overwhelmed by the volume of work, but confident in the organization that stands behind you as a member and sponsor of our local league.

Stay tuned as we try to bring some of the national and international issues home to Glen Ellyn for awareness and discussion.

We will kick-off our local league year on **Thursday, September 14 at 7:30pm** at the Meadows. Our school superintendents will be our special guests, and our own Kim Reed will bring us an update on the LWVIL Immigration Study.

I look forward to seeing you on the 14th.

Sincerely,

Margaret DeLaRosa
LWVGE President

News from National – LWVUS

More detailed information on each of these topic headings can be found on www.lwv.org

Report of Convention 2006 Action

The following motions were passed at the 2006 LWVUS Convention, held June 9-13 in Minneapolis, MN:

Motion to adopt the LWVIL Death Penalty position by concurrence on the Convention floor. The position will read “The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.”

Motion to adopt the following resolution related to program requiring a voter-verified paper ballot or paper record with electronic voting systems.

Whereas: Some LWVs have had difficulty applying the SARA Resolution (Secure, Accurate, Recountable and Accessible) passed at the last Convention, and

Whereas: Paperless electronic voting systems are not inherently secure, can malfunction, and do not provide a recountable audit trail,

Therefore be it resolved that:

The position on the Citizens’ Right to Vote be interpreted to affirm that LWVUS supports only voting systems that are designed so that:

1. they employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record, said paper being the official record of the voter’s intent; and
2. the voter can verify, either by eye or with the aid of suitable devices for those who have impaired vision, that the paper ballot/record accurately reflects his or her intent; and
3. such verification takes place while the voter is still in the process of voting; and
4. the paper ballot/record is used for audits and recounts; and
5. the vote totals can be verified by an independent hand count of the paper ballot/record; and
6. routine audits of the paper ballot/record in randomly selected precincts can be conducted in every election, and the results published by the jurisdiction.

Motion to adopt the following resolution:

1. Elevate the restoration of our System of Checks and Balances and Separation of Powers to a top priority by specifically adding it to our Democracy Agenda for advocacy and education.
2. Denouncing the erosion of our System of Checks and Balances and Separation of Powers and the resulting damage to our constitutionally guaranteed civil liberties, and
3. Call upon Congress to assume its vital role for oversight and as a co-equal branch of government responsive to the citizens its members represent.

News from National – LWVUS (continued)

Motion to amend the proposed program by adding: Resolved that the League of Women Voters of the United States support the concept of Internet neutrality by calling upon Congress to protect equal access to the Internet.

Motion to adopt a three year study of immigration policies.

Motion to retain all existing positions in the areas of Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.



Immigration Study Committee Application Deadline: August 1

Delegates at LWVUS Convention 2006 adopted a three-year study of immigration policies – two years of study and one year of consensus. League members who are interested in serving on the LWV study committee can apply by completing the nomination/application form before the August 1, 2006, deadline. This form is available for download on [this page](#). For more information, contact Study Chair and national Board member [Carolie Mullan](#).

Safeguarding the U.S. Democracy Grant Application Deadline: August 15

With all eyes on the courts, there are many opportunities to educate citizens about the importance of safeguarding U.S. democracy by promoting an independent judiciary and defending the U.S. Constitution. The issues are many and addressing them in a unified and multi-year manner will have an increased positive impact on our democracy. The “[Safeguarding U.S. Democracy](#)” program accepts applications from state and local Leagues for participation every four months. To request an application and guidelines, please contact [Maria Pilar Lampert-Grassi](#) or [Zaida Arguedas](#). A sample of educational activities that Leagues involved in this program may work on includes: Community forums, TV programs on different judicial issues, participation in judicial conduct committees, efforts to support changes in campaign finance laws, creation of voter guides for the 2006 and 2008 elections, and much more.

Would You Like to Be Interviewed for an Upcoming Book About Baby Boomer Women?

Daughter Trap is an upcoming book that will champion the cause of baby boomer women juggling work, career, spouse, child and elder care commitments. The author needs to interview boomer women in this situation for the book. The book will use quotes from women coping with these conflicting imperatives, and propose ways business, government agencies, local communities and neighbors can ease the burden. All interviews will be confidential and all quotes will be anonymous, due to the sensitive nature of the material. If you're interested in participating, please contact Laurel Kennedy at 1-888-879-0123 or lkennedy@agelessons.com.

News from National – LWVUS (continued)

League Joins New Alliance to Provide Outreach to Overseas Citizens and Military Voters

The League has become an alliance partner with the Overseas Vote Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing voter services to overseas voters.

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=5761>

League and Telemundo Launch 2006 Hispanic Vote Project

The League has partnered with ZGS Communications, the largest independent owner of Telemundo affiliate television stations, to launch “Tu Voto, Tu Voz,” a public awareness campaign to encourage voter registration and electoral participation among U.S. Hispanics. Read the press release:

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Press_Releases&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=5738

Ten Leagues Chosen to Host Russian and Ukrainian Visitors This Fall

The LWVEF announced the ten Leagues hosting Russian and Ukrainian visitors this fall as part of the Open World Leadership Center's 2006 Civic Hosting Programs. Read the press release at

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Press_Releases&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=5749

LWVUS July 2006 Board Meeting: Message from Mary G. Wilson, President

The LWVUS National Board finished their summer retreat and first Board meeting in Washington, DC, July 21-23, 2006. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to increasing membership. The Membership Recruitment Initiative which will be launched shortly in five pilot leagues will receive my special attention as well as that of Carol Reimers, the Board's Membership Chair and of the Board liaisons in the states where the five selected are located. As resources become available during the project, we will make available to all Leagues the materials and membership recruitment tools developed.

In addition, the Board and the national office staff discussed possible ways to work with state and local Leagues to build League capacity and leadership at the grassroots level. I look forward to talking to State and local League Presidents to get more input on this.

At our recent meeting the Board took several initial steps to further involve members in LWVUS activities. The Board created a Net Neutrality Task Force that will help us learn more about this subject, a topic on which we have neither staff nor Board expertise. Sarah Diefendorf will chair the Board Committee that establishes the application process for members to be appointed to this task force and to frame the scope of work the task force will be asked to undertake.

News from National – LWVUS (continued)

Look for more information about this in the next few weeks. Also, I expect to appoint the Immigration Study Committee members by the end of August and ask them to meet and prepared to recommend a study scope at our October Board meeting.

The Board has approved the establishment of a new Natural Resources discussion List on which members interested in environmental issues, such as global warming and national parks, may share information. Sarah Diefendorf, who is an environmental specialist by training, will serve as the Board representative on this List and will have an announcement about subscribing to this list in the next few weeks. And, I have asked Xandra Kayden to serve as the Board representative on the Health Care List discussion and am encouraging members interested in this topic to use the List to share educational materials and state advocacy opportunities.

These are just a few of the items the Board worked on during their Retreat and Board meeting. In addition, we also discussed how we would review the over 200 oral and written comments we received as Guidance to the Board at Convention. Individual delegates who made Guidance comments should receive a personal email by September 8, 2006 on the status of their particular comment. A summary of all Guidance to the Board will be posted on the members section of the LWVUS Web site by the end of September.

The Board approved the posting of Board minutes on the members section of the Web site when the Board has reviewed and approved them. In the meantime, if any State or local League President would like to know more about the Board meeting, please contact the Board liaison for your State.

Your Board is excited to be working with you to continue the League's important efforts at every level to "make democracy work".

Victory on the Voting Rights Act!!

Together we achieved the goal of reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act (VRA) before the congressional recess in August! This victory was the result of tremendous League activity, throughout the country and on the Hill, in support of the bicameral bill to renew the VRA, "The Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006," H.R. 9 and S. 2703. On July 13, the [House](#) overwhelmingly passed H.R. 9, 390-33. All amendments were defeated, thwarting efforts by some to weaken the VRA. The [Senate](#) quickly followed suit, passing S. 2703 unanimously, 98-0, on July 20. President Bush signed the bill into law on July 27. This success was celebrated by the large and diverse coalition of groups who worked for more than a year to reauthorize the VRA. League members can be proud of the extraordinary contributions of our local, state, and national Leagues as we advocated together for the renewal of the landmark civil rights law.

News from National – LWVUS (continued)

Your Help is needed for the DC Voting Rights Bill

Significant new legislation to provide voting rights in the House of Representatives for citizens of the District of Columbia is making its way through Congress with a subcommittee hearing scheduled for September 14. <http://takeaction.lwv.org/lwv/issues/alert/?alertid=8791291>

League Calls on Representatives to Support Meehan-Shays Presidential Public Financing Legislation

The LWVUS joined with other organizations in a letter to U.S. Representatives urging them to co-sponsor and support the Meehan-Shays bill that would make a series of important reforms to the presidential public financing system.

League Strongly Urges Representatives to Support a Ban on Leadership PACs

The LWVUS joined with other organizations in a letter to U.S. Representatives urging them to publicly support legislative efforts to ban leadership PACs.

League Opposes Barriers to Citizen Participation in Voting

The LWVUS sent a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives opposing HR 4844, a bill that would create new barriers to voting by eligible citizens by requiring a photo ID at the polling place and proof of citizenship in the voter registration process.

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=5813>

Weekly Update will soon be sent to all League leaders

Thank you for the positive feedback about the information you receive in the Weekly Update! We heard from local and state presidents at the LWVUS Convention that you wanted to expand its distribution to include all League leaders. So, this Weekly Update will soon be sent to all current state and local leaders in the LWVUS database, not just League presidents. We hope that this will strengthen communication with all League leaders, ease the burden of disseminating information.. This change will take effect on August 10. Please be sure that your League's leadership information is up-to-date in the LWVUS database. League leaders who do not wish to receive the Weekly Update will be given an option to "unsubscribe." Questions may be emailed to membership@lwv.org.

2006 Sample Questions for Debates or Voters' Guides

Leagues across the country are swinging into voter service overdrive and are hosting debates, producing Voters' Guides and registering voters by the droves. LWVUS has crafted sample debate questions on federal issues for optional use by state and local Leagues. These questions touch upon some of the major issues this election year including energy, lobby reform, campaign finance and healthcare.

Welcome our new League in Indiana!

The LWVUS board has just recognized a new League in Indiana, the LWV of Southwestern Indiana. We applaud the work of the leadership in Evansville and the work of the Indiana state League in nurturing this group to be able to take on full League status! Please join us in wishing them well on their upcoming Fall voter education activities and candidate debates.

News from National – LWVUS (continued)

LWVUS President Wilson Testifies before Committee on House Administration Hearing in Arizona

August 3, LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson testified in Phoenix, Arizona before a hearing of the U.S. Committee on House Administration on "Securing the Vote." At this hearing, President Wilson opposed plans to require that eligible voters show photo identification at the polling place and present documentary proof of citizenship in the voter registration process. Read her testimony at <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=5903>.

News from State – LWVIL:

- **Thursday, September 14 2006, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**
Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism
Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Glencoe
 It is an era when faith trumps reason, where fundamentalism in every nation is on the rise and where, in the U.S., a political party is closely aligned with a religious movement. Michelle Goldberg, senior news/political writer for the on-line magazine Salon.com, examines the rise of the Christian right in America. Goldberg explores why proponents of theocracy and dominism are gaining increasing power.
Glencoe Public Library
 More info: R.S.V.P. at 847-604-1207
- **Tuesday, September 26, 2006, 7:30 p.m.**
Campaign Season: Ethics and Elections
Sponsored by the LWV of Naperville and North Central College
 Cynthia Canary, Director of the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, will discuss ways to clean up elections and demand ethical behavior from our politicians.
Harold and Eva White Activities Center, 325 E. Benton Ave., Naperville
 More info: Jane Barnes, 637-5274
- **Saturday, September 30, 2006**
Central Illinois Leadership Training
 More info to follow
State House Inn, Springfield
Tuesday, October 3, 2006, 9:30 a.m.
Sponsored by the League of Women Voters- Lake Forest/Lake Bluff
 Author Spencer Overton to speak about the integrity of the electoral system and provide strategies toward restoring self-government.
Northern Trust Bank non Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest
 More info: Stephanie Victor, (847) 735-1228
- **Sunday, October 15, 2006, 2:30 to 5:00 pm/ Saturday, October 21, 2006 10:00 A.M. to Noon**
The Mysteries of Cook County Government
Sponsored by the LWV Cook County & LWV Oak Park - River Forest
 A report of the LWV Cook County study of Cook County government structure and budget process.
 PUBLIC WELCOME
 10/15: *Oak Park Public Library, Main Branch, 834 Lake Street (1 block west of Oak Park Ave)*
 10/21: *Palos Heights Public Library 12501 South 71st Avenue*

LWVGE News & Activities:

Annual Meeting Highlights:

LWVGE annual meeting was held on Thursday, May 4 at Glen Oak Country Club. We began our evening with “Non-Party Games” (our evening’s theme). Each member was assigned a political personality. An identification tag was taped to their back, and the only way to learn their identity was to ask Yes/No questions of other attendees. It was a great ice breaker activity, and one that produced some very interesting questions.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Village President Vicky Hase
On the state of the Village

We honored the following members for their contribution of time and talent to League:

Kathy Slovick - The Phyllis Renfro Community Action Award
Michelle Peterson - Outstanding New League Member Service Award
Judy Kinn - Susan B. Anthony Voter Service Award

We elected the following slate of Officers and Directors:

Officers:

Ginger Wheeler - VP Action
Diana Hoke – VP Operations
Chris Kinsey – Treasurer

Elected Directors:

Sarah Allen – Membership
Midge Anderson – Local Arrangements
Julie Nolan – Publicity
Peggy McGrath – Healthcare

2007 Nominating Committee:

Dorothy Hess (chair – non-board)
Judy Petrushka (non-board)
Kim Reed (non-board)

Acknowledged the resignation and contributions of Co-president Meredith Zelewsky

The budget passed as published in the Voter and distributed by email; however it was noted that the state league increase in Per Member Payment (PMP) was not fully covered in the Dues amount printed in the Annual meeting invitation. Dues for the year are \$60.00 for individuals and \$90 for individuals and spouse.

LWVGE News & Activities (continued):

Annual Meeting Highlights (continued):

We adopted a 2006-07 Local Program which includes two major areas of focus:

1. A study/informational meeting of the emergency response systems at the local, township and county levels of government.
2. An informational meeting and study of the Civic Betterment Party operations and processes in developing a slate of candidates for Village and Library boards.

The 2006 Mary Luginbill Scholarship was awarded to Jeff Minkus from Glenbard West who will major in Education and Spanish at Hope College in Michigan.

League off-Season Summer Activities:

Meeting and Training:

During the summer months the board has met to transition from old to new board, developed a calendar of meetings.

The LWVGE board of officers received training from LWVIL board member Jan Dorner.

Board members met on Saturday, August 26 at Café Java Juice for training on board responsibilities and duties. Jan presented FOCUS approach to League.

We enjoyed the in town location of Café Java Juice and hope that it will become a regular league hang-out.

Ladybug Giveaway:

Annual Ladybug giveaway was held on Friday, July 7 and Saturday, July 8 at the GE Farmers Market and Wheaton French Market respectively.

New Website:

A new website is currently in the build stage. The board is working hard to review and edit web content for accuracy and consistency. We will keep you posted as we move closer to our new site.

6th Congressional Candidate Forum

Candidates Tammy Duckworth and Peter Roskam have accepted an invitation to a candidate forum Co-hosted by the League of Women Voters of the 6th congressional district and College of DuPage

The forum will be held on **Thursday, Oct 12 at 7:30 pm at the College of DuPage SRC 2800.** Doors will open at 7pm, and the forum will begin promptly at 7:30.

Stay tuned for emails, mailers and press releases on this important event.

LWVGE News & Activities (continued):

Voter Services:

Even though the fall general election is a few months away, I thought it would be helpful to let you know about some important dates.

September 28, 2006- First day to file for absentee ballot by mail or in person for reason of absence from residence on day of election.

October 10, 2006- Last day to register to vote by deputy registrars.

October 16, 2006- Early voting begins at Dupage Election Commission offices and other sites in Dupage county.

November 2, 2006- Early voting ends.

November 7, 2006- General Election Day

Also, the LWV 6th congressional district chapters in partnership with COD will be sponsoring a debate between Tammy Duckworth and Peter Roskam this fall. The date is **October 12, 2006 from 7:30-9 pm** in the COD Student Resource Center.

We will need volunteers that night to assist with the debate, since we expect a big crowd.

Finance Drive:

LWVGE annual Finance Drive begins **September 10**. Letters and Window clings will be mailed to our 2006 sponsors, but we will need volunteers to follow-up on drive mailings with local businesses. Please contact Cleo Burtis, Finance Chair for details.

HELP WANTED:

LWVGE urgently needs a Voter Editor, or Voter production group to assist with planning, writing and producing our monthly newsletter.



League-sponsored events of interest:
September - November 2006

Thurs., Sept 14	Kick-off: Meet our Superintendents	The Meadows, 60 Nicoll G.E.
Thurs., Sept. 21	Board Meeting	Home of Sarah Allen 7:30
Thurs., Oct 12	6 th congressional forum	College of DuPage, SRC 2800
Thurs., Oct 22	Prepare to Vote session	Glen Ellyn Library 1-3:30
Thurs., Nov. 9	Unit Meeting	Civic Center



Membership: The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots, multi-issue, activist organization. It is organized in all 50 states as well as in the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. Any citizen over 18, male or female, may become a member of the League of Women Voters. Educated, connected citizens keep communities prosperous and nations healthy.

Stay tuned into your community. Join, or rejoin the League of Women Voters of Glen Ellen. Help keep the educated citizen alive by participating in the League.

2006-2007 Registration/Renewal Form

Sign me up for the Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters! _____
Renew my membership in the Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters! _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail to: League of Women Voters- Glen Ellyn, P.O. Box 2391, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138 with \$60.00 dues for Individual or \$90.00 family membership for 2005-2006.