



**Glen Ellyn League of
Women Voters**

P.O. Box 2391
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

630-881-1490

PRESIDENT
Ginger Wheeler

VICE PRESIDENTS
Operations: Kristin Malone
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.

5013734734 0011

GELWV INVITES YOU TO UPCOMING CANDIDATE FORUMS

The Wheaton and Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters along with the Chambers of Commerce of Wheaton, West Chicago, Warrenville and Carol Stream will co-sponsor candidate forums on January 6th and 7th at the Wheaton Park District Community Center, Memorial Room, 1777 S. Blanchard Road. A reception will be held beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the forums will be begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Candidates for Forest Preserve Districts 4 & 6 and US Congressional District 14 have been invited to participate in the January 6th forum. Congressional candidates Randy Hultgren (R-14) and Benjamin Lowe (D-6), and Forest Preserve candidates Eric Bergman (D-4), Donald Kirchenberg (D-4), Mike Formento (R-4), James Carr (R-4), Al Murphy (R-6), Roger Kotecki (R-6) and Shannon Burnis (D-6) are expected to attend.

Candidates for DuPage County Board Chairman and DuPage County Board District 4 & 6 have been invited to participate in the January 7th forum. Board Chairman candidates Carole Cheney (D), Dan Cronin (R), Debra Olson (R), Gary Grasso (R), Carole Pankau (R) and County Board candidates Tom Wendorf (D-4), Thomas Grimston (D-4), JR McBride (R-4), Brad Webb (R-4), Dave Barry (D-6), Matt Fuesting (R-6), Bob Larsen (R-6) and Paul Darrah (R-6) are expected to attend. For more information, please contact Julie Nolan at (630) 790-3568.



THE VOTER

Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters

January, 2010

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainty— Sir Francis Bacon

The third US President Thomas Jefferson wrote; "Bacon, Locke and Newton. I consider them as the three greatest men that have ever lived, without any exception, and as having laid the foundation of those superstructures which have been raised in the physical and moral sciences." Indeed, in the early 1600's, Francis Bacon envisioned a new world where women would have more rights, there would be separation of church and state, slavery and debtors' prisons would not exist and all people would enjoy freedom of religious and political expression. What a visionary! Now we Leaguers can follow Sir Francis' lead and become visionaries ourselves as we peer into the future and decide what is next for the League. **EVERYONE** (members, non-members, guests and potential members) is welcome and encouraged to attend Program Planning Brunch on Saturday, January 30th at 8:30 a.m. at The Meadows. It is the time when we plan our programs for the 2010-2011 League season. We will also ponder current LWVUS positions and make group decisions about what they mean and whether they are relevant. If you have an issue that's tingling your brain, this is the place to let it all hang out, ladies!

I would also like to commend the LWVGE on two terrific and well attended fall meetings: October 8th we learned all about campaign finance reform in Illinois from Paula Lawson, the LWVIL's past president; November 12th, we heard from local leaders and members of Glen Ellyn's strategic planning citizen's advisory council about Glen Ellyn's new strategic plan for the downtown area. Thank you to all our presenters, organizers and to all who attended! On December 10th, we enjoyed a lovely evening at Ten Thousand Villages, shopping to our heart's content.

We've had some board changes...Mary Lou Lowry is filling the role of Treasurer, in addition to chairing our healthcare portfolio. Midge Anderson continues as a board member at large. Cleo Burtis is stepping in as Secretary, replacing Hanano Anderson who is shifting roles to act as our Lake Michigan ILO liaison and representative. Chrystyne Strutynsky has left the board due to increased responsibilities at work. Thank you to all these hard working board members!

What's coming up next? Not much: just a Candidate Forum, an election, a state issues briefing (portfolio chairs should attend!), the 2010 Census and more. We'll learn about the Census on Feb. 11th, delivery of mental health services in DuPage County on March 11th and hold our annual meeting on April 29th. At that time, we confirm with the membership everything we started in Program Planning: our priorities, our positions, and our future, and guide our delegates to the Atlanta national convention. One other thing: League will be 90 years young this year! What shall we do to celebrate this milestone? Send me ideas! Watch your email for updates and visit our website too. Fan us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. Sir Francis Bacon would be proud! Respectfully, Ginger Wheeler

Inside this issue:

What the Heck is Program Planning	2
Report of the Health Care Portfolio	3
Update on Coal Cities Initiative	3
Help Wanted	4
Congratulations to Dan Anderson	4
Membership Report	5
Upcoming Candidate Forums	6

CALENDAR

- Jan 6th & 7th— Candidate Forums, Wheaton Park District Community Center, 7-9 p.m.
- Jan 30th— Program Planning Brunch, The Meadows, 8:30 a.m.
- Feb 2nd— General Primary Election. Polls open 6 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Feb 11th—Unit Mtg, 2010 Census, Civic Center, 7:30 p.m.
- March 11th—Unit Mtg, Mental Healthcare, Civic Center, 7:30 p.m.
- April 29th—Annual Mtg, Glen Oak CC, 6:30 p.m.

WHAT THE HECK IS PROGRAM PLANNING?

LWV members, whether young, not-so-young, experienced, or new to LWV can be flummoxed by Program Planning. It's a strange name to apply to a basic process. The short version is "Program Planning helps the LWV determine-from the grass roots-what we should focus on in the coming months locally, statewide, and nationally." What should League's priorities be? What should we be working toward? What are we interested in? What are our passions? What, as a League, can we do to make the world a better place? Program Planning is the place to let your board know *your* thinking!

At Program Planning we revisit our League positions. 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? Because League is a multi-level organization, our local League must undertake this activity on a local level, a state level AND a national level. Typically we look at our local positions every year, then we look at state positions in odd years and national positions in even years, corresponding nicely with our state and national conventions. This year we will revisit our local positions and national positions in preparation for the national convention that will be held in Atlanta. Program Planning is a chance to let the convention delegates know *your* thinking about a multitude of proposals that are pouring in from Leagues all over the country:

- Does our League think transparency should be an important tenet of the League's current "SARA Resolution" on election systems that was adopted by the convention in 2004?
- Should we be studying the federal banking system and its regulations?
- Do we need a new national position that clarifies the role of the Federal government in education?
- Do we still need an arms control position now that the Soviet Union no longer exists?
- Should League support a department of Peace cabinet position?
- What about locally? What should our League be focusing on? What are the hot button issues in our community? Should we be attending and studying a local governmental board's meetings?

In preparation for the meeting we suggest that you review our local and national positions. Our local positions are printed on pages 23-32 in the Membership booklet that you received this fall. Instructions for accessing national league positions online can be found on page 35 in the Membership booklet. We also invite you to talk to your neighbors and friends and bring your ideas and suggestions to Program Planning on Saturday, January 30th at 8:30 a.m. at the Meadows. If you cannot attend, send a letter or a note through any of the board members. Check on our website-a survey will be posted there to take the pulse of members and the community. Urge your friends to fill it out as well, we want to know what you think! Program Planning is where the grass roots meets the road, see you there!

REPORT OF HEALTH CARE PORTFOLIO

Please join us at the Civic Center on March 11th at 7:30 p.m. for an informative meeting on the delivery of mental health care services in DuPage County. Tony Zipple, chief executive officer of Thresholds, will give a presentation on evidence based practices followed by Dave Christiansen who is head of the Health Department Division of Mental Health. Dave will speak about the implementation of evidenced based practices in DuPage County. Thresholds has established the Thresholds institute which is committed to helping people with severe mental illness reclaim their lives. The Institute seeks to integrate clinical services and research to promote rapid knowledge transfer between service and science. Through their collaborative work with government bodies, academic institutions, and other mental health programs, they will conduct cutting edge research on evidence based practices, emerging best practices and recovery-promoting services for individuals with severe mental illness.

In October, Margaret DeLaRosa, Sonja Faulkner and I visited with Congressman Roskam regarding healthcare reform, and presented the LWV's position to him. Congressman Roskam said that Republicans and Democrats agree on 80% of the issues surrounding healthcare reform. The critical issues are access and cost with cost being the most important issue. He supports the purchase of insurance across state lines to increase competition. He also supports the creation of Associative Health Plans which is an association of businesses who join together to reduce their healthcare cost by spreading the costs among several businesses. He also supports tort reform in order to contain medical costs. He also would like to expand community health centers. These health centers provide quality and affordable healthcare services in our community.

Submitted by Mary Lou Lowry, Healthcare Portfolio Chair

UPDATE ON COOL CITIES INITIATIVE

Since the Village Board presentation at the end of October, the Village reports that they will have continued EPA support to help develop a baseline carbon emission inventory. EPA plans to have a new intern on board in early January to provide labor and resources to finish the job. Once the inventory is done, the Village will have a "better handle on where we stand" or, as the Coalition would like to see it, finding the low hanging fruit for energy savings in our Village. Glen Elyn is also discussing with Collage of DuPage how to find a potential intern who could do the internal staff work needed for a Cool Cities initiative. Steve Jones stated that if the Village has an intern for future internal work, or a volunteer commitment from the Cool Cities Coalition, "I would see no reason why we would not move forward."

It looks like the Village has a serious interest in becoming a Cool City, but presumably due to serious budget and staff limitations, it is taking a cautious approach. That suggests we need to continue to develop community support and programs that will lead to a lasting effort to become a Cool City and to implement meaningful programs thereafter. The Chamber of Commerce supports the effort, and we will be seeking more public support. As with any public issue, a committed and informed citizenry is vital.

Submitted by Jeff Gahrns, Cool Cities Coalition

HELP WANTED

LWVGE Needs a Census Guru. This is not rocket science. The Census is as old as our Constitution, but we need help explaining it to the community and planning our February Unit Meeting. We have the contacts and the names. You just have to make the calls, and make sure the speakers know where to be. Contact Ginger (gingerlw@aol.com) or Carrie (CBurrows@d303.org) to sign up.

Board Watchers. The next best thing to serving on a governing board is "watching" one (even better actually). LWV has a strong tradition of observing boards. If you have an interest in a school board, park board, village board or village board committee, please contact Peggy McGrath at anydots@aol.com.

Want to Help a Committee Chair? Every League board member is in charge of a committee. If you want to learn more about League and help your hard-working board members by donating a little of your time, call them and volunteer! The names and numbers of board members are listed in the Membership Directory.

Program Planning Presentation Help. Program Planning requires LWVGE to review all current local and national positions. Each "subject" is tackled by an Eager-Leaguer anxious to get to know more about that topic. Contact Carrie (CBurrows@d303.org) to sign up.

Annual Membership Awards. A chair is needed to solicit and evaluate nominations for 2009-2010 membership awards. It's League's version of the Oscars! Contact Dorothy Hess to volunteer at dazhess@aol.com. Hurry before all the "good stuff" is gone!

Phonathon Caller. If you like to chat, the Phonathon is the event for you. The phonathon is fun, easy, and quick. One Sunday evening TBA... contact Kristin at kbmand3@aol.com to help.

Donations Wanted. Did you know one of League's Scholarship winners is also a "Real Life" winner but is struggling to pay college bills? If you can help by donating, contact Sherry Crumbaugh at sherry-c@juno.com.

State Budget Guru Wanted. If you are interested in solving the state's budget and fiscal crisis, this is the job for you. League has partnered with the Responsible Budget Coalition to help figure out how to save Illinois from financial ruin. Contact Lucy Dallman at ldallman@d41.dupage.k12.il.us to sign up.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAN ANDERSON

Our very own Dan Anderson was honored at the December 14th Glen Ellyn Village Board meeting by the board and the Illinois Humanities Council as a recipient of the 2009 Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award. Anderson, who is the chair of the development committee at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society, was awarded an engraved medal of recognition for, among other things, spearheading efforts to create the Glen Ellyn History Park at the corner of N. Main Street and Geneva Road. The Studs Terkel Humanities Service Awards, now in its 10th year, recognize individuals who have made a lasting contribution to the cultural life of their communities. The 44 recipients were selected by their mayors for their exemplary efforts to champion the humanities in their communities. Named after the oral historian and author, the awards reflect the spirit of the modern-day renaissance man who was perhaps most admired for documenting 20th-Century America through the voices of ordinary people. "Boundless energy, creativity dedication and spirit of cooperation are the hallmarks of Dan's involvement in countless aspects of the society's growth and viability," said Village President Mark Piefferman, who nominated Anderson for the award. Congratulations Dan on a well deserved award!

ARE YOU CONNECTED?

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.

To stay up-to-date on the latest local League information, remember to visit our website often. The address is www.lwvge.org. You can follow our League on Facebook and Twitter! If you have a Facebook account, you can "Fan" us. If you have a Twitter account, follow us @GELeagueer.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please welcome our newest member: June Yoshimura. Our membership now stands at 94! Do you know 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. Consider 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 would like to join our League, please fill out the form below and return it to the address listed. If you join League between January 1 and May 1 of 2010, your dues will count for the 2010-2011 year as well as the remainder of this fiscal year. That means you will not need to pay dues again until May, 2011!

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

Please return this form with your dues. Single membership dues are \$60 and an additional member at the same address is \$30.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send to: Dorothy Hess 629 Pleasant Avenue, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137