

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members:

We are back from convention and we are hopefully wiser, but definitely awed and inspired. We heard some great ideas to attract members, raise funds and just have fun., and yes we are a bit overwhelmed. One important feeling we got from convention is how well thought of the Glen Ellyn League is in the state. Shawn and I plan to be respectful stewards of our reputation.

What are we planning to do with all this inspiration? Basically get down to business. We have scheduled topical unit meetings, Emergency Responders, Homelessness, and we are starting off the year with a political hot button, Home Rule for DuPage County. Will home rule inflate the power that the county has or provide it with necessary flexibility to respond to matters quickly? Come to the summer coffee, August 9th, at the home of Ursula Bryant and get informed. It is what the league does best.

We are also planning to improve communications. Did I mention that we actually have a Voter Editor? A big thank you to Margaret DeLaRosa for doing double duty as Voter Editor and President-it's not as easy as it sounds. Judy Kinn, our new editor, will be sending out the Voter quarterly. We are looking to improve communications on all fronts. Ginger Wheeler has developed the web site, now we just need to get more content. This will be an ongoing process. Check it out for current dates and upcoming events at www.lwvge.org. A calling tree will be another tool we will use to keep members informed about events. To get information about topics you are interested in we have included a sign up sheet for the Grassroots Advocates. Sign up to stay informed on one or more issues.

As we embark on an exciting new year, if you have not already done so, please pay your dues to Sarah Allen. If you have questions, you can call Sarah at 790-8231. Join LWV and be directly involved in shaping the important issues to keep our community strong, safe and vibrant. As an LWV member, you are part of an organization where smart, active leaders work to create change in their communities.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank our outgoing President, Margaret DeLaRosa and her board for all their outstanding work. We would also like to welcome to the board Julie Nolan, Secretary, Andrea Bonney, Publicity and Kristin Malone, Publications. Andrea is a new member and we appreciate that she is jumping right in and helping us out. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings!

Michelle and Shawn

SUMMER COFFEE-AUGUST 9TH HOME RULE FOR DUPAGE COUNTY

Please join us on August 9th for our summer coffee. Ursula Bryant has graciously volunteered to host the coffee at her home at 431 Anthony in Glen Ellyn beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Discussion is raging at the DuPage County Board over Home Rule. Should it be implemented and if so, how? Would it mean more control or less? How will it affect taxes? Cook County is the only other home rule county in Illinois. Should we join them? Our guests will be J. R. McBride and Debra Olson, District 4 DuPage County Representatives, who will discuss their views of this controversial issue.

Our summer coffee is a great time to reconnect with fellow Leaguers, bring a friend or neighbor who might be interested in joining the league, and be educated about an important local issue. We look forward to seeing you there!

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CALENDAR

- Aug 9th- Summer Coffee at Ursula Bryant's
- Sept 13th- Kick Off Mtg. at The Meadows at 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 11- Emergency Responders. Civic Center at 7:30 p.m.
- Nov 8- Homelessness and Poverty. Civic Center at 7:30 p.m.
- Nov 29- Holiday Open House. Ten Thousand Villages 5-8p.m.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR OWN KIM
REED WHO WAS
ELECTED TO THE
ILLINOIS STATE
BOARD AT THE
CONVENTION!**

STATE CONVENTION: STRENGTHENING OUR ROOTS AND BRANCHING OUT

The state convention was held in Matteson this year. As with all conventions there was a lot of business to take care of which was dispensed efficiently except for two issues. One was a Judicial Evaluation item which was approved as an Action item. This will result in the formation of a Judicial Evaluation Commission that will provide the public with reliable nonpartisan information about the judges for whom they vote. The other involved adopting the Immigration Position which was presented by Kim Reed. It was truly a League moment.

We were very surprised at the amount of discussion that the Immigration position evoked since 32 of the 50 local leagues had individually met on the study and the only statements being presented were those clearly reached by consensus. Since there was concern that the position would not be adopted a caucus was held Saturday night so that everyone could

be heard. There were several strong, articulate voices wanting to change parts of the position which had been agreed on by all the local leagues. Kim did an excellent job educating everyone on the process. This ensured that those not attending convention, but who attended the study meetings, were heard. That is the heart of the study and consensus process: the impassioned few cannot override the thoughtful majority at the 11th hour. The position, which is included in this Voter, was overwhelmingly adopted on Sunday morning. Congratulations to Kim and the entire committee!

On a final note a fun fact: the average age of a LWV member is 72! At first this information concerned me that we are not attracting younger members, but on the other hand it made me realize I have so many more years to contribute. This is good because I feel there is so much more to learn. Shawn

STILL PLENTY OF TIME TO BECOME A DEPUTY VOTER REGISTRAR

When the League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 at the Congress Hotel in Chicago, one of the main goals of this new organization was voter registration. That continues to be one of the League's primary efforts today. League voter registrars are often asked to register voters at various events and functions or the League itself will organize voter registration activities on its own. Registrars are appointed by the Board of Elections Commissioners of DuPage County for a two year period. To be appointed you must be registered to vote in DuPage County, provide your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and social security number. The LWVGE Voter Services officer will then contact the

Board of Elections and request that you be appointed as a deputy voter registrar under the auspices of our local league. Within a few weeks you will receive a letter from the Board confirming your appointment and inviting you to be sworn in as a voter registrar. You can do this anytime during business hours (8 am-4:30 pm) at the DuPage Election Commission located at 421 County Farm Road in Wheaton. When you are sworn in you will receive your registrar certificate and a supply of voter registration materials. If you are interested in becoming a deputy voter registrar please contact Julie Nolan at 630-790-3568 or Southie398@aol.com.

2007 MARY LUGINBILL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

This year the LWVGE awarded its fourth Luginbill scholarship to Ashley Robinson, a graduating senior at Glenbard West who plans to pursue a teaching degree at Augustana College beginning this fall. The scholarship was presented at the annual Senior Honors Convocation by Sherry Crumbaugh.

Ashley ranks highly in her class. She's a French Honor Society member, as well as quite involved in dance, both on the Dance Squad and in Orchestras. She was in theater and musical productions, sang in the Women's A Cappella choir, was a Senior Mentor, all of this while working part-time for the last 3 years, as well as volunteering at Sunrise Assisted

Living Center for the past 2 years. She describes herself as "a driven student and a remarkably hard worker."

My thanks to fellow members of the Scholarship Committee, Mark Luginbill and Shawn Fasules. This is the time of year we solicit funds for our scholarship. Please send your tax-deductible checks, made out to the DuPage Community Foundation with Luginbill Scholarship written on the memo line. I can accept your checks or you can mail them to the DuPage Community Foundation, 2001 Manchester Road, Building A, Suite 303, Wheaton IL 60187. Sherry Crumbaugh



Would you like the League to alert you when key decisions are pending on the issues you care about?

There are times during the year, particularly when the state legislature is in session, when LWVIL Issue Specialists have important information to share and/or need to mobilize grassroots action on League issues. If you are interested in any of the issues listed and would like to be an individual Grassroots Advocate, please complete the form below. Current Grassroots Advocates can use this form to make changes in their listing.

SIGN ME UP AS A GRASSROOTS ADVOCATE!

I am a current Grassroots Advocate, but would like to change my listing (if you're unsure what issues you're signed up for, contact Emily at the LWVIL office: 312/939-5935, ext. 37; elieber@lwvil.org)

I am a current Grassroots Advocate, but am unable to continue. Please delete my name from the listing.

I am interested in receiving information and taking action on the following state issues (see further information on the reverse side of this form and check all that apply):

CORE ISSUES: Election Laws/Election Admin. Reform Fiscal Policy/ School Funding
 Making Democracy Work/Democracy Project

WATCHFUL ATTENTION ISSUES: Children's Services (Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice)

Campaign Finance Reform Civil Liberties/Women's Issues Criminal Justice
 Death Penalty Abolition Equal Rights Amendment Housing
 Health Care Mental Health Gun Violence Prevention
 Smart Growth Social Policy Natural Resources

Name:	
Address, City, St, Zip:	
County:	
Phone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
Local League:	
State Rep./Dist. #:	
State Sen./Dist. #:	
US House Rep./Dist. #:	

Mail completed form to: LWVIL, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1050, Chicago, IL 60604;
 or fax to: 312/939-6887; or e-mail the information on this form to: info@lwvil.org

(OVER)

From: Edith Aughter, LWVIL Issues & Action VP (847/381-5760, auchfam@comcast.net)

Date: January 2006

Re: How LWVIL prioritizes decisions on action

The Illinois League will only take action on issues on which we have a position. The legislative agenda is prioritized; putting emphasis on areas where we believe the League can have the most impact and is a recognized leader. It is our belief that League is instrumental in what we refer to as "good government" issues such as election law and campaign finance reform. League is also widely recognized for its work on fiscal policy and school funding. These issues are our priorities; we put our resources behind them.

On many issues, we work primarily through our coalition partners. LWVIL Issue Specialists - who are volunteers - work with these partners in issuing alerts to our grassroots advocates. This is our standard procedure for all non-priority items.

We try hard to respond to our priority items; we give what attention we can to a list of non-priority issues. We are bound by resource restrictions. Our lobby fund is an LWVIL expense; however, most of our income comes to us as tax-deductible donations to our Education Fund and cannot be used for direct lobbying expenses, such as support of a specific bill.

CORE ISSUES are defined as issues identifiable by our members and the public as core League issues. 2006 Core Advocacy Issues are **Fiscal Policy/ School Funding and Social Services**, due to the state of Illinois budget deficit and the low percentage of state funding for schools and other vital social services; **Election Laws**, due to the impact of the U.S. Help America Vote Act 2002 on Illinois; **Election Administration Reform**, re-adopted at the LWVIL 2005 convention as a primary action focus and **The Democracy Project** due to concerns about the ability of citizens to participate in the state legislative process through their own direct action or the actions of their elected officials. The project is designed to restore public confidence in our state government.

WATCHFUL ATTENTION ISSUES are defined as issues likely to see action at the state legislative level, where we have strong member interest and an opportunity for the League to make an impact. Lobbying activity is generally restricted to grassroots advocacy. 2006 Watchful Attention Advocacy Issues are:

- **Campaign Finance Reform**
- **Children's Services:** Early intervention services, foster care, children's mental health, transfer and juvenile correctional reform
- **Civil Liberties/Women's Issues: CEDAW**
- **Criminal Justice:** Recidivism rate reduction: removing barriers to successful reintegration: addressing needs of mentally ill offenders
- **Death Penalty Abolition**
- **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**
- **Gun Violence Prevention**
- **Health Care:** Health Care Justice Act Implementation
- **Mental Health:** Coordination of services
- **Natural Resources:** Wetlands preservation, Clean Air
- **Smart Growth**
- **Social Policy:** TANF reauthorization, family care, childcare, housing, employment training and job support

If the state League or national League has not issued an alert on legislation of particular interest to you, you are encouraged (as an individual, not as a League member) to have a conversation with and/or to write your representatives regarding this bill.

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LWVGE SUPPORTS SIERRA CLUB'S COOL CITIES INITIATIVE

LWVGE is supporting a plan brought to its attention by Glen Ellyn resident Adam Kreuzer to help Glen Ellyn become one of DuPage County's first Cool Cities. Adam has successfully lobbied the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission to recommend that Glen Ellyn become a Cool City. Next, the Village Board will learn about this grass-roots program.

Cool Cities is the brainchild of Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels who in February 2005 initiated the idea at the US Mayors Conference. Since then, nearly 600 mayors including Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley have signed on to the Sierra Club's national campaign-Cool Cities: Solving Global Warming One City at a Time.

Kreuzer presented the idea to the LWV in April of 2007, who enthusiastically signed on and sent Ginger Wheeler with Adam to Glen Ellyn's Environmental Commission meeting to present the idea. Mr.

Kreuzer pledged to work with the Environmental Commission to draft a plan for the village board to consider. Part of the plan would be for the village to document its current levels of carbon emissions and then pledge to reduce those levels in the community to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012 (the same reductions and target date called for under the Kyoto Protocol Global Warming Treaty).

Should Glen Ellyn sign on to the Cool Cities plan, it's simply pledging to meet the reduction plans. There are no penalties for not following through with the program. It is a start in the right direction and Glen Ellyn can feel good knowing it's a Cool City should the village board adopt the program. We would be joining Carol Stream as the only other Cool City in DuPage County. For more information contact Ginger Wheeler or Adam at: akreuzer@mkec-law.com



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

Come join the lively discussion on world affairs at Great Decisions. This group is open to everyone and anyone. We read up on a specific topic and share the leadership. Meetings are held once a month at 7:30 pm at the home of Bob Luginbill, 290 Montclair. Our schedule for the rest of the year is:
Sept. 27-South Africa: Facing New Challenges
Leader: TBA

Oct 25- Central Asia: Three Power Resource Rivalry
Leader: Diana Nichol

Nov. 15- War Crimes
Leader: Ann Zeidman

Jan. 24- Mexico: Neighbor in Turmoil

Leader: Martha Wilson

We will be ordering new annual study guides in January. The Great Decision discussion group is part of the Foreign Policy Association and is not an official group of LWVGE. It was started by an interested member who sought more international information. To ask about a single session or to order a guide for next year call Diana Nichol at 630-858-5279 or dnichol290@earthlink.net.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We are proud to announce that the LWVGE received a check for over \$200 from this year's phonathon! Thank you to Ginger Wheeler and Margaret DeLarosa for making all the telephone calls. We hope to expand this easy fundraiser next year. The key is to have a minimum of 8 callers to earn a larger percentage of the total funds raised. Be warned a date will be set early next year and we will have a minimum of 8 callers.

A big THANK YOU to Chris Kinsey, Michelle Peterson, Sarah Allen, Shawn Fasules, and Ginger

Wheeler for a fun and entertaining annual meeting and dinner. Attendees were treated to Jenny Riddle's one woman show, Famous First Ladies. Special thanks to Ginger for assembling the program.

Thank you to Julie Nolan, Cleo Burtis, Midge Anderson, Peggy McGrath, Laura Lee, Michelle Petersen and Sarah Allen for helping out with the Ladybug Giveaway this year. I hope you all saw the cute picture in last week's Glen Ellyn News!

Great Job!

LWVIL ADOPTS POSITION STATEMENT ON IMMIGRATION

At the LWVIL State Convention in June, delegates adopted the following position statement on immigration. The League of Women Voters of Illinois

-believes that the State Of Illinois should promote local community efforts to provide orientation and counseling services for immigrants regardless of documentation status. The State of Illinois should support funding efforts for these services by encouraging federal funding and by the use of funds from the state and local governments as well as from the private sector;

-believes the State of Illinois should promote and fund educational programs and materials that seek to inform all workers, including documented and undocumented immigrants, of their rights in the workplace;

-believes the State of Illinois should provide "driving certificates" or some other form of proof of driving

validation to undocumented drivers, allowing those drivers to drive legally and ensuring that they would have passed a state driving test. The LWVIL also believes the State of Illinois should permit and encourage auto insurance providers to issue insurance coverage to holders of such driving certificates;

-opposes the deputization of state and local police to enforce immigration laws in Illinois;

-opposes legislation or ordinances at the state and local level that would penalize landlords for renting to undocumented immigrants;

-opposes legislation or ordinances at the state and local level that would prohibit the issuance of business permits to undocumented immigrants; and

-does not support extending the right to vote to undocumented immigrants.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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. For more information contact Sarah Allen at 630-790-8231 or at her email address: rides-rowdy@aol.com

Membership dues are \$60 for an individual or \$90 for a family membership for 2007-2008.



LWVIL NIGHT OF COMEDY

Join the League of Women Voters of Illinois for a special presentation of **WAIT WAIT DON'T TELL ME!** on Thursday, September 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Chase Bank Auditorium, 10 South Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60603. The NPR news quiz show will be noting our presence on air and jokes will be told at the League's expense! Tickets are \$60 per person which includes admission plus a reception after the show. There are also VIP seats available for \$125 per person. The VIP ticket includes a pre-show visit with the cast in the green room. Spaces are VERY limited, so book now. To pay by phone dial 312-939-5935, ext. 37

NEWS FROM LWWUS

"This decision is not about applying the law, it is about achieving a political result— greater corporate power in our elections"
**Mary G. Wilson,
President LWWUS**

League Fights Back Against Supreme Court Ruling

President Mary G. Wilson fought back against a Supreme Court ruling that opens up a huge loophole for campaign advertising funded by corporate and union money. "This is a big win for big money," said Wilson. In February, the League filed an amicus brief in the case. President Wilson's comments appeared on the front page of the *Washington Post* as well as other major newspapers around the country.

FOIA Anniversary—July 4th

July 4th is not only the nation's Independence Day; it is also the anniversary of the Freedom of Information Act!

Check out the LWWUS website at www.lwwus.org.

League Pushes Congress to Oppose Insufficient Ethics Proposal

The LWWV joined other groups urging members of Congress to oppose the unsatisfactory ethics reform proposal before them. The League's reform efforts were cited in Washington's *Roll Call* newspaper.

New Resources Available: Strategies for a Secure World

Since September 11, 2001, the LWWUS has worked to engage our Leagues and the public in addressing civil liberties and security concerns. Visit our new Civil Liberties and Homeland Security page for important resources on these issues, including expert papers created by the LWWUS and the RAND Corporation on topics such as the history of the Middle East, recent trends in global terrorism, and strategies for overcoming terrorism.

NAPERVILLE VOLUNTEERS ARE READY TO SERVE FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF OLDER ADULTS

Metropolitan Family Services of DuPage has In-Home Senior Respite volunteers who are trained and ready to serve families of older adults in Naperville and surrounding communities.

Senior respite program volunteers provide short, weekly respite visits in the homes of family caregivers who are providing assistance to an older adult. Volunteers are screened, trained and supervised by Metropolitan and will visit with an older adult for up to 3 hours each week in order that the family caregiver can leave the home to take care of personal or business matters. Volunteers may visit, play cards, work a puzzle, or watch TV with an older adult. No

hands-on assistance is provided. There is no charge for this service.

The In-Home Respite program is provided by Metropolitan Family Services DuPage, a not-for-profit family service agency. Since the In-Home Senior Respite program began in 2002, volunteers have provided over 8,800 hours of service to 125 families throughout DuPage County. The In-Home Senior Respite Program is a free service for all families of DuPage County and is supported by United Way, City of Naperville, and DuPage Community Development Block Grant. For more information, contact Monica Lockie at 630-784-4875

LWVGE COMMITS TO OBSERVER CORPS

At convention, the LWVGE committed, in front of the entire delegation, to have an observer corps this year. This is a great opportunity for anyone to get involved. An observer can write their own job description. The only guidelines are that you attend board meetings of the organization you are observing and that you write up a few notes so that the rest of our members can benefit from your attendance. And NO you do not have to commit to be at every meeting of the board you are observing and you do not even have to attend the League's board meetings. More information and pleading to come!



P.O. Box 2391
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

630-881-1490

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peteriford@aol.com



**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.

BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING THE GLEN ELLYN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS! WE ENCOURAGE ALL OF OUR MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES.

ALFIE'S INN

WILLIAM A. FAIRBANK, ATTY.

B.G. DESIGN

HEALTH TRACK SPORTS WELLNESS

BARONE'S OF GLEN ELLYN

JUST THE BOOKSTORE

THE BENDIGKEIT BUNCH

THE LEONARD MEMORIAL HOME

BUSY BEE BARBER

MAIL 'N STUFF

CABERNET AND CO.

MCCHESENEY AND MILLER

CRAIG'S FAMILY PHARMACY

PJ'S CAMERA AND PHOTO SUPPLY