



THE VOTER

Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters

Summer, 2011

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings all. Well, this is shaping up to be a busy, interesting year. We're especially looking forward to participating in the LWVUS Education Study; check out the LWVUS website to see what it's all about. 2012 looks particularly busy for Voter Service, with all the activities surrounding the presidential elections. Please consider putting in some time to help out with either of these committees this year. You make League happen!

Over the next few months we're looking forward to the Summer Wine and Cheese event on August 18th, especially with each of us pledging to personally invite a prospective member. We're also excited about the annual Kick-Off in September, where we hope all the new members will sign up for committees. You make League grow!

Speaking of growing, the LWVGE received the Membership Award at the state convention this year. Thanks are in order for the efforts of Dorothy Hess and Ginger Wheeler. Kudos, ladies!

Special thanks also go out to Bonnie Gahrts, who's *Facts for Voters* is flawless; to everyone at the Old/New Board Meeting for accepting a portfolio; to Jayne for sharing her home that evening; and to Cleo for inviting us into her home for the upcoming Summer Get Together. If I've forgotten your summer efforts, please remind me, but remember...You make League unforgettable!

If you're reading this with your daily cup of coffee and the news (print or electronic), take a minute to reflect on how, as a member of League, you affect that news. The beauty of League is that we don't just react to the news, we help create it. I thought of Michelle Peterson passing out ladybugs at the Farmers' Market this morning while the skies darkened before a thunderstorm. First the critters got lost in the mail, and then they were hit by a deluge. Nonetheless, they got distributed. It made me think that life can be a deluge of crises, reactions, and duties, but League lets us create something of our own, beyond the daily grind. Let's take that to heart this year as we take part in League activities. Let's make the news. You make League matter!

Diane Hoke, LWVGE Co-President

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CALENDAR

- Aug 18th— Summer Wine and Cheese, Cleo Burtis', 7:30 p.m.
- Aug 25th— Great Decisions, Germany Ascendant, Bill and Mary Glenn's, 7 p.m.-DVD, 7:30 p.m. Discussion
- Sept 10th—Book Club, Michelle Peterson's, 9 a.m.
- Sept 16th—Kick Off Meeting, Civic Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct 13th— LWVUS Education Study Information Meeting, Civic Center, 7:30 p.m.

REPORT ON LWWIL STATE CONVENTION

This year's LWWIL convention "Mapping the Future" was held June 10-12 in Skokie. Diana Hoke, Ginger Wheeler, Kim Reed, Roberta Borrino and Joy Young attended. On Friday Diana attended a workshop: Legislation Update. Our own Ginger Wheeler ran a workshop: Marketing your League with Social Networking which was very well received by all attendees. The Friday night dinner featured the presentation of awards. The Community Impact Award was presented to the Elmhurst League for its investigation into Elmhurst School District issues. Also recognized for their achievements were the Cook County LWW, the Highland Park LWW, and the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area LWW. Following the awards ceremony, Mary Ann Ahern, political reporter for NBC5 News in Chicago, was a lively, informative and entertaining guest speaker.

The keynote speaker on Saturday was LWWUS President, Elisabeth McNamara. She encouraged all to register new voters, educate all voters, use the vote and hold elected officials accountable. Ms. McNamara said that protecting the political process is important and that there are still many barriers for voting groups. Issues of immigration, union-busting, and voter suppression are all linked, therefore, advocacy against voter suppression efforts is paramount this year. To that end, the League must focus on Voter Service, including protecting electoral systems, campaign finance reform, fair redistricting and of course voter registration. In the face of budget cuts, we must help citizens be part of the process and discussion regarding education and social safety nets.

Under the plenary portion of the convention on Saturday, delegates discussed and approved the 2011-2012 and the 2012-2013 budgets. The Budget Committee did not recommend an increase in the PMP for 2012 or 2013, but LWWIL is to make every effort to keep expenses in check and to seek additional revenues from fundraising and alternative sources. In addition the LWWGE won the membership award! After the plenary, a caucus on the LWWUS Education Study was held. Consensus responses are due November 30th. Suggestion was made to partner with other Leagues and local school boards to discuss this issue.

On Sunday the slate of officers and directors for 2011-2013, proposed by the Nominating Committee, was elected: Jan Dorner, President; Missy Wilhelm, VP Voter Services; Joni Painter, VP Membership; Laura Kratz, VP Issues; Hollis Burgess, VP Communications; Annie Logue, Secretary; Nancy Clark, Treasurer; as well as Board Members, Cate Whitcomb, Mary Kubasak, Gigi Moore, Paula Ekstrom, Cheryl Wollin and Elaine Adler.

The currently existing positions were re-adopted. The recommendation to adopt a Study of the Illinois Pension System was adopted. The update on Recall and Term Limits was dropped for lack of volunteers. The nonrecommended item proposed by the Wheaton League under State Fiscal Policy, to study the expenditures side of the Illinois fiscal policy, was brought to the floor and discussed, but did not get sufficient votes to be adopted. The following items were adopted or readopted as action foci: Fiscal Policy and Tax Reform; Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform; Redistricting Reform, Immigration, Climate Change; and Large Scale Livestock Facilities.

Direction for the new board, from the convention included: Recommendation by the Lake Michigan League that we develop an ecosystem position; that we bid to have the 2020 LWWUS Convention (100th Anniversary) in Chicago; that there be more support for candidate forums and coverage for state wide races downstate; that we revisit our criteria for determining inclusion in debates; and lobbying for victim rights.



LWVUS EDUCATION STUDY:

THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

This fall, Leagues across the nation will be participating in the study and consensus process for a position on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. You are likely aware that there are some big changes being discussed for our public schools across the nation. Since the LWVUS currently has no position on this issue, we will not be able to support or oppose, or even comment on the proposals. Congress has been considering the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which includes the No Child Left Behind Act, (NCLB). While NCLB is credited with raising the awareness that some children were being left behind, the act is generally viewed as a failure. In fact, by 2014, the year that all schools in the US should be 100% compliant, it is anticipated that most if not all will not meet AYP (adequate yearly progress). NCLB does not recognize growth if it does not meet the benchmark, and the emphasis on standardized testing does not allow for critical thinking curriculum or measure a child's progress beyond the test scores. Is there a better way than ESEA to improve the learning skills and knowledge of our students? Does ESEA need to be changed? Without a consensus on this issue, we as League members will have our hands tied and not be able to comment or encourage a change in the ESEA. Will League members be happy to reduce themselves to bystanders if this act stands or new proposals are worse? We think its time for us to do our homework so we can be advocates.

What Will We Be Studying?

- General Introduction to the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education
- Education Funding and Equity
- Common Core Standards
- For more information go to www.lwvus.org and click on "For Members," then click on "Projects and Programs:" and then click on "Federal Role in Education."

Timeline for the Study:

Local Leagues are expected to review information and hold consensus meetings by the end of November 2011. The LWVUS Board of Directors will approve the official position by March, 2012.

What is Consensus?

Consensus is not a vote. It is a mutual agreement of League members who have arrived at the agreement through discussion. During discussion, everyone has an opportunity to voice their viewpoints, and the issue is examined from all sides. Consensus questions provide structure for the meeting. Members discuss the pros and cons until it becomes clear that consensus has or has not been reached on each question. Each local League will have a discussion leader to help keep the group focused on the task at hand. When consensus is reached, it must be approved by the local board before being posted on the LWVUS website. You can invite the public to join you in the study process but only League members can participate in the consensus.

How You Can Help:

Contact presidents Diana Hoke and/or Ginger Wheeler and let them know you are interested.

Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendars:

Education Study Informational Meeting: Thursday evening **Oct. 13** at the Civic Center

Consensus Meeting: Saturday daytime, **Nov. 12** (location TBD)

LWVGE PORTFOLIO REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP: Dorothy Hess

It has been a busy summer for membership. As of July 15, we have 99 paid members in our League. If you did not pay your 2011-2012 dues during the membership drive in May, you are certainly not too late. Membership is open year round, and we very much want you to renew. Just send your check to me, Dorothy Hess, 629 Pleasant Avenue, Glen Ellyn 60137. Please include: your name, address, phone number and email address. Single membership dues are \$62 and an additional member at the same address is \$31. Not sure if you renewed? Just call me at (630) 858-8768 and I'll check.

Please welcome our newest members: Lisa Basso, Roberta Borrino, Cate Brady, Jacki Carapella, Sue Gransee, Edna Heatherington, Barbara Hochstadt, Nancy McCaffrey, Carol Scinto, and Michelle Thorsell. Please look for them at the Summer Wine and Cheese and introduce yourself.

Thank you to the more than 70 members who returned the membership surveys along with their dues. Your interests have been noted, and you will be contacted by the appropriate portfolio or committee chairs as help is needed. Feel free to contact any of the board members listed in the directory to get involved.

Your 2011-2012 membership Directory should be hand-delivered to you no later than October 1st. If you have not received it by then, please contact me and I will make sure you receive one. Please check your membership information on the list in the back of the directory when you get it and let me know if a correction or update is needed.

Please call me with the names of anyone you think may be interested in joining League. I will contact them with membership information. You are the best recruiters we have!

PUBLICATIONS: Bonnie Gahris

The Fact 4 Voters brochure was finalized, 300 copies were printed and they are now ready for distribution. Later in the summer I will update the annual Membership Directory

BOARD OBSERVER/GLEN ELLYN PARK DISTRICT: Bonnie Gahris

I attended the meeting on July 19th. Due to the electricity being out in the building, the meeting was shortened and only agenda items I to VII were discussed. Business of note:

- 1) A Change Order relating to the Platform Tennis warming hut construction was discussed because the cost to construct it has exceeded its original cost by \$36,500. Because the Park District's costs are fixed, the Glen Ellyn Platform Tennis Club (GEPTC) has committed to raising the additional money needed to complete the project. On another GEPTC matter, a member of the audience representing the Club asked about a concrete path that was accidentally damaged by a sub-contractor and who would pay the damages. After some discussion, it was determined that staff will talk to the contractor to try to resolve the issue.
- 2) Lake Ellyn Hydrologic & Hydraulic Studies are being undertaken. Rezek, Henry, Meisenheimer and Gende, Inc., consulting engineers, will be doing the studies to address the overflowing issue at the north end of Lake Ellyn that occurred in July and August. The \$51,430 cost will be split 50-50 between the Village and Park District. The Village will administer the overall project. The Park board voted in favor of the expense.

REPORT ON LWVGE-LUGINBILL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, MICHELLE VONACHEN

Again this year we are fortunate to have chosen a wonderful young woman to receive our \$2,000.00 scholarship. She brings extraordinary life experience to her chosen profession that will be a major asset to all her students. Our recipient was diagnosed with learning disabilities in first grade and has struggled throughout her school years with reading decoding and written expression disabilities. Fortunately for her, she had some wonderful teachers "who have inspired me and set expectations for my learning that pushes me to do better." She has also experienced teachers who discouraged her because they only saw her as a student with a learning disability. "Seeing teachers do that and experiencing it first hand, both the good and the bad teachers, has inspired me to want to make a difference. It made me want to be a teacher, but one who challenges each student to their true capacity." Michelle is looking forward to attending Loras College in Iowa this fall. Loras has the Lynch Center where they help students with all types of learning disabilities transition into college life and meet their educational requirements. She will also play and coach soccer while attending Loras College.

We are still soliciting funds for our scholarship. Please make checks payable to the DuPage Community Foundation, and put LWVGE scholarship on the memo line. Send checks to the DuPage Community Foundation, 104 E. Roosevelt Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187. Thank you for helping us continue this wonderful tradition that honors our longtime member, Mary Luginbill.

Respectively Submitted, Sherry Crumbaugh

LWVGE 2010-2011 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Diana Hoke winner of the Susan B. Anthony Voter Service Award. This award is given to a member who has worked diligently to register voters and inform voters about both candidates and issues.

Jayne Boeckelman winner of the Outstanding New League Member Service Award. This award is given to a new member who has jumped right in and taken an active leadership role in our League.

Lee Crumbaugh winner of the Phyllis Renfro Community Action Award. This award is given to a member who has been exceptionally active in League and an activist in the community.

Awards Committee: Dorothy Hess (Chair); Cleo Burtis; Carrie Burrows; and Lucy Dallman

CALLING ALL BOOK LOVERS

The next selection for the LWVGE book club is *Rise to Rebellion* by Jeff Shaara. This book tells the story of the events leading up to the American Revolution starting with the Boston Massacre of 1770 up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Books will be available at the Glen Ellyn library reference desk (upstairs) beginning August 13th. We will meet to discuss the book on Saturday, September 10th at 9:00 a.m. at Michelle Peterson's, 579 Riford Road. We hope to see you there!



**Glen Ellyn League of
Women Voters**

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CO-PRESIDENTS

Diana Hoke
Ginger Wheeler

VICE PRESIDENTS

Operations: Lucy Dallman
Programs: Joy Young

**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.

SUMMER WINE & CHEESE EVENT

Please join us on Thursday, August 18th at 7:30 p.m. for our Annual Summer Wine & Cheese Event. It will be held at the home of Cleo Burtis, 206 Crest Road, Glen Ellyn. Our special guest for the evening will be State Senator, Ron Sandack. Senator Sandack has been newly appointed to succeed former Senator Cronin. Ron will bring us up to date on what is happening in Springfield. This event is open to the public and is a great way to introduce prospective members to our League so we encourage you to bring a friend, neighbor or interested family member.

WHY JOIN LEAGUE?

Be directly involved in shaping the important issues to keep our community strong.

Be actively engaged in affecting change on the local, state and national level.

To take advantage of leadership opportunities and to make an impact.

To meet a wonderfully diverse group of dynamic women and men.

Membership dues for the year are \$62 for an individual and \$31 for each additional person from the same address. For more information about membership, contact Dorothy Hess at 630-858-2336.