



THE VOTER

Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters

October, 2010

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Dwell in possibility” Emily Dickinson

Autumn is in the air, and with it lots of fall activity at the LWVGE, but we are not “falling,” no, we are rising! As Emily states, “Hope is the thing with feathers.” And fly we do: 103 members, terrific turn out at the last two League events, inspiring volunteer participation at our upcoming October events (Mock Elections, Candidate Forums, and several voter registration events), and good buzz coming from state and national. Did anyone see the bit in the *Tribune* about the sponsorship of the Gubernatorial and Senatorial debates? For all this activity, we have volunteers to thank.

Thank you to **Diana Hoke** and **Midge Anderson** for organizing our upcoming Mock Elections at Glenbard South, Glenbard West and Lake Park West. This activity is proven to be one of the most significant motivators to create life-long voters!

Thank you to **Julie Nolan** for coordinating our upcoming Candidate Forum, along with the LWV of Wheaton and the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce. Getting buy-in and commitment from candidates to appear is a little like herding cats. It takes patience, perseverance, and time! Julie is also spearheading our voter registration activity.

Thank you to **Carrie Burrows** for pulling off a stellar Kick-off meeting. More than fifty Leaguers came to explore all League has to offer. Thank you to **Lucy Dallman** for hosting a well-attended Summer Wine & Cheese party. Thank you to their committees for helping to organize both of these events: invitations, refreshments, signs, name tags, etc, do not magically appear, but they are essential to a successful meeting. Also essential is following up with interested potential members. Thank you to **Dorothy Hess** for her tireless work in Membership recruitment and development.

Thank you to **all the board members** and **activity chairs** for constantly coming though, doing what they say they will do, and then cheerfully doing it again! Thank you to **all of you members**. Those of you who have attended our gatherings and volunteered to register voters or work at mock elections or candidate forums are so treasured. Simply being a member is also a treasure. Just being a part of this amazing organization is doing something!

Together we make League a place people want to be! Keep up the good work everyone and enjoy the season. I’ll see you at one of our many upcoming events because “The soul should always stand ajar, ready to welcome the ecstatic experience.” (More Dickinson). But, if you can’t make it, you can always visit League online at www.lwvge.org or email, text, or call me!

Ginger Wheeler, President (630) 835-6959

Inside this issue:

Membership Report 2

Literacy Tea to benefit GE Resource Center 2

Finance Drive Report & Great Decisions 3

Welcome Center Needs Help 3

News From LWVUS & LWVIL 4

Recall of Governor 5

Candidates’ Forums 6

CALENDAR

- Oct 20th & 21st, Candidates’ Forum, Wheaton Community Center, 7-9 p.m.
- Oct 28th– Great Decisions, Global Crime, Diana Nichol’s, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 2nd–Election Day, Polls open 6 a.m.-7p.m.
- Nov 9th-Literary Tea, St. Marks, 12:30-3:00 p.m.
- Nov 18th-Unit Mtg.- IL Budget Crisis, Civic Center, 7:30 p.m.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our new year has begun, and I am proud to announce that we currently have 103 paid members. Thirteen of our members are new this year. Please welcome them when you see them at meetings:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Becky Allen-English | Paul Lefort |
| Jo Ayo | Paul Mooring |
| Katherine Doyle | Michelle O'Neill |
| Caryn Graham | Claire Peterson |
| Maureen Handley | Kay Vlahos |
| Kathleen Hokenson | Lois Walter |
| Sue Kowalski | |

Our new membership directory is just off the presses. Thanks to **Bonnie Gahris** and **Christyne Strutynsky** for updating and printing the book. If you have not yet received your copy, it will be delivered to your door in the next few weeks. Please call me if you have not received your copy by October 15. Please add the following information to the membership roster at the back of your directory:

Ms. Becky Allen-English	756 Chidester, G.E.	630-858-2536	rebecca5000@comcast.net
Ms. Jo Ayo	468F Pennsylvania GE	630-469-4208	jobob@hotmail.com
Ms. Katherine Doyle	1571 Highland, G.H.	630-479-5974	engageinactivism@gmail.com
Ms. Maureen Handley	515 N. Main #5E, G.E.	630-545-0119	mahandley@hotmail.com
Ms. Lois Walter	124 Newton, G.E.	630-790-1569	lois_walter@att.net

You are always welcome to bring guests to our unit meetings, or call me if you know who might like to be on our mailing list. Dorothy Hess, Membership Chair (630) 858-8768

LITERARY TEA TO BENEFIT THE GLEN ELLYN CHILDREN'S RESOURCE CENTER

The Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center will be hosting a tea on Tuesday, November 9th from 12:30-3:00 p.m. at St. Marks Episcopal Church, 393 N. Main St. in Glen Ellyn. The keynote speaker will be Mawi Asgedom the person that is responsible for "one of the twenty best moments of Oprah's career!" Mawi is a former Ethiopian refugee who has inspired millions through his story and his insights. He has written six books including his bestselling memoir, *Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey From a Refugee Camp to Harvard*. After arriving in America and living on welfare in Wheaton, Mawi overcame many challenges to earn a full scholarship to Harvard. He has shared his insights on many prominent media venues including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *ESSENCE*, *The Chicago Tribune* and *NPR*. All proceeds will benefit the Resource Center. Support literacy for the world's children in you own backyard! For more information contact League member, Kathy Schmidt, at (630) 790-3780.



FINANCE DRIVE REPORT

Thank you to everyone for making the Finance Drive a success--those of you who contributed and those of you who contributed AND put up with my nagging and visited local businesses to get the ads. The total so far this year is \$2,194. You did a great job!

Members contributed over \$1200 both to the Glen Ellyn League and the Education Fund which we can use to pay part of our PMP. We also collected \$975 for ads. We appreciate our business partners and encourage all of our members to support these local merchants! A special thanks to Midge and Dan Anderson for putting together the ad page again this year. I do not know what we would have done without them. Many, many thanks. Anyone who would like to contribute and has not, can always do so. We never turn down donations! Barb Fried, Finance Drive Chairperson (630) 858-8606.

GREAT DECISIONS 2011 TOPICS ANNOUNCED

We had a wonderful turnout and a lively discussion at our September 23rd meeting on China. In addition, we welcomed five new members to our group! For those of you who are unfamiliar with our group, Great Decisions is a program run by the Foreign Policy Association. They provide a book with background information on each of the topics along with a DVD. We meet at people's homes at 7:00 p.m. to watch the DVD and then at 7:30 we begin our discussion based on the printed materials. The topics for 2011 will be: Rebuilding Haiti; U.S. National Security; Horn of Africa; Responding to the Financial Crisis; Germany Ascendant; Sanctions and Nonproliferation; The Caucasus; and Global Governance.

Our next discussion will be October 28th on Global Crime at Diana Nichol's, 290 Forest, GE. We are always looking for new members and would love to have you join us. To order a 2011 book or to get more information you can contact Diana Nichol at (630) 858-5279.

WELCOME CENTER NEEDS HELP

The Welcome Center at First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn has welcomed Glen Ellyn's homeless population to find respite from the elements from 2-6:30 p.m. every Sunday from Oct. thru May for many years. The creation of the Welcome Center sprang from a LWVGE meeting that was held in late 2004 at the behest of the GE Library as to what could be done to assist the Library to handle overflow crowds of homeless on Sunday afternoons when there was no other places to go.

The issue was, and continues to be, that PADS sites are in GE on Saturday and Sunday evenings. On Sunday morning, the site closes at 6:30 a.m. and doesn't re-open until 7:30 p.m. So the homeless would congregate on Sunday afternoons in Glen Ellyn streets, in parks, in the coffee shops, and in the library waiting for the site to open. The homeless who often carry their traveling gear, bags, backpacks, etc. with them were finding themselves being shut out of these places.

A coalition was formed during the League meeting to study the issue and the Welcome Center was established in early 2005. Now volunteers are needed to help out at the Center. A lot of League members have and continue to volunteer to keep the Center open. Volunteers are needed to check in visitors, make coffee, serve food and snacks, keep order and clean up. It's very easy. Teams work in shifts from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and 3:30-6:30 p.m. If you are interested in this important community service, please contact Richard Dunn, volunteer coordinator, at (630) 605-1019. Thanks in advance for your help.

NEWS FROM LWVUS

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

League Investigating Allegations of “Voter Caging” in Wisconsin

Voter caging is the practice of sending mail to addresses on the voter rolls, compiling a list of the mail that is returned undelivered, and using that list to purge or challenge voters’ registrations on the grounds that the voters on the list do not legally reside at their registered addresses. Supporters of voter caging defend the practice as a means of preventing votes cast by ineligible voters. Voter caging, however, is notoriously unreliable. If it is treated (unjustifiably) as the sole basis for determining that a voter is ineligible, it can lead to the unwarranted purge or challenge of eligible voters. Moreover, these purges or challenges are seldom neutral. Voter caging is almost always pursued with partisan aims, and caging lists are often targeted expressly at registered members of the opposing party. Moreover, the practice has often been targeted at minority voters, making the effects even more pernicious.

DISCLOSE Act Rejected

Despite all our efforts, especially the hard work by the LWVs of Maine and Massachusetts, the DISCLOSE Act failed. The League worked hard lobbying Senators to support the Act, which would have partially restored transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union spending in candidate elections. The legislation is expected to be brought to the Senate again in a lame-duck session after the November elections.

League Urges Senate to Ratify START Treaty

League President Elisabeth MacNamara sent a letter to the Senate urging members to ratify the START Treaty, which 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 Urges Support for Office of Congressional Ethics

The League and coalition partners sent letters to House Speaker Pelosi and House Minority Leader Boehner, urging them to make a public commitment to the American people to support the continuation of the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) as well as oppose any efforts to prevent the OCE from effectively carrying out its mission and basic responsibilities. The coalition also thanked Speaker Pelosi for her leadership in establishing the Office of Congressional Ethics in 2008.

LWVIL/ABC 7 CANDIDATE DEBATES: October 19 and 20

ABC’s Chief Political Correspondent George Stephanopoulos will moderate the debate between 11 senatorial candidates on October 19 from 10:35-11:35 p.m., and ABC 7 anchor/reporter Ron Magers will moderate the debate between the gubernatorial candidates on October 20 from 10:35-11:35 p.m. on ABC 7. In addition to airing on ABC 7’s main channel, the hour-long debates will air live on ABC 7’s 7.2 channel at 7:00 p.m. and be streamed live on abc7chicago.com. ABC 7’s 7.2 is available on Comcast channel 217, RCN channel 618 and Wide Open West channel 219.

The LWVIL Voters’ Guide will go live on October 12. The IL section of VOTE411.org will cover the following races: Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, US Senator, Reps in Congress, State Reps, and those State Senatorial districts that are up for election.

NEWS FROM LWVIL

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

Recall of the Governor Proposed Amendment to the Illinois Constitution

At the general election on November 2nd, you will be asked to decide whether the Illinois Constitution should be amended to add a new Section 7 to Article III to provide for a special election to recall a governor and for a special election to elect a successor governor. If you believe the Illinois Constitution should be amended, Vote "Yes". If you believe the Illinois Constitution should not be amended, Vote "No". 3/5ths of those voting on the question or a majority of those voting in the election must vote "Yes" in order for the amendment to become effective. The LWVIL has not taken a position on this issue, but is distributing the following information to assist members in making an informed decision.

Summary of the Amendment

- No sooner than 6 months after the beginning of a governor's term, an affidavit may be filed with the State Board of Elections indicating notice of intent to circulate a petition to recall the Governor.
- The affidavit must have the signature of 20 members of the Illinois House of Representatives and 10 members of the Illinois Senate. No more than 50% of signatures can be from members of the same political party.
- The number of petition signatures required is 15% of the total votes cast for Governor in the preceding election. Based on the 2006 gubernatorial election almost 525,000 signatures would be needed.
- Signatures must be collected within 150 days. 100 signatures must come from each of a least 25 of Illinois' 102 counties.
- Two special elections may be required, one to recall the Governor and, if necessary, a second to elect a successor Governor. (Estimated cost of the two elections is \$101 million).

Recall: Pros and Cons

Pros: Recall improves the performance of elected officials. Recall provides a way for voters to retain control over elected officials who are not representing the best interests of their constituents. Recall stimulates interest in public affairs. Recall encourages elected officials to be more responsive to constituents. Voters should have the ability to remove a Governor mid-term.

Cons: Recall puts an additional burden on the voter (longer ballots, more frequent elections). Elected officials may feel unduly restrained; they may be reluctant to support action in the public interest for fear of recall. Expense of additional recall election is not justified, especially when impeachment or next election is available for getting rid of an elected official. Recall can be used for partisan purposes. Recall can lead to abuses by well-financed special interest groups.

Gubernatorial Recall History

Eighteen states permit the recall of state officials. Prior to California's 2003 recall election the only successful recall of a governor to date took place in North Dakota in 1921, when voters removed Gov. Lynn J. Frazier from office. California voters have initiated 32 gubernatorial recall attempts since 1911. The 2003 recall of Gov. Gray Davis was the first to ever reach the ballot. In 1988, Arizona voters filed enough signatures to trigger a recall election, but the State's House of Representatives impeached Gov. Evan Mecham before the date of the scheduled recall.



**Glen Ellyn League of
Women Voters**

P.O. Box 2391
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
630-835-6959
Email: info@lwwge.org

PRESIDENT
Ginger Wheeler

VICE PRESIDENTS
Operations: Lucy Dallman
Programs: Carrie Burrows

**CHECK OUT
OUR WEBSITE
www.lwwge.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.

LEAGUES TO CO-SPONSOR CANDIDATE FORUMS IN OCTOBER

The Glen Ellyn and Wheaton LWV and the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce will co-sponsor candidate forums on October 20th and 21st. Both forums will be held at the Wheaton Community Center, 1777 S. Blanchard Rd. Wheaton from 7 to 9 p.m. You can meet with the candidates from 6:30-7 p.m. On Wednesday, October 20th, candidates for DuPage County Board Chair, DuPage County Board Members, District 4 and 6 and Illinois General Assembly Districts 48 and 95 will participate. On Thursday, October 21st, candidates for DuPage County Forest Preserve Board President, DuPage County Forest Preserve Board members District 4 and 6, and Illinois General Assembly Districts 42 and 45 will participate.

The forum will also be videotaped for local cable TV and streamed live on the web at the LWV-Glen Ellyn web channel on <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/general-election-candidate-forum-october-20-21>. For more information about the candidates, please see <http://www.vote411.org>.

This will be a great opportunity to hear the candidates discuss some key issues and policies in this time of tight budgets and a tough economy. How do they plan to provide us with good efficient government in a time of rising need and declining resources? For additional information or to volunteer, please contact Julie Nolan at (630) 790-3568.