

The logo for the League of Women Voters (LWV) features the letters "LWV" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A red brushstroke underline is positioned beneath the letters.

Join/Support

March 2022

The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn



Greetings!

With the warmer weather and the flowers starting to show their colors, we are energized for a busy Spring.

Our Annual Meeting is around the corner and we are excited to be meeting in person at the Glen Oak Country Club on Thursday, April 28. This is one of the most important gatherings of League membership where Board nominations, budget and program are approved. We celebrate retiring Board members and we honor members who have gone above and beyond. This year our speaker is our own Sania Irwin who has been serving as a LWVUS Board member for the last two years. The evening is a wonderful opportunity to meet with new and long-time members, share a meal and embrace the mission of the League. Invitations will be mailed soon, along with membership renewal information. **Please return your RSVP as soon as possible.** We look forward to seeing many of you there, especially our newer members!



The Civic Betterment Party Study Meeting was held on March 3, both in person and virtual. Many thanks to Chairs Carrie Burrows and Sonja Faulkner and Committee Members Gail Bernstein, Rita Doyle, Barbara Kwiatkowsky, Bernadette Laszewski, Kristin Malone and Michelle Peterson for an excellent presentation. Many ideas for change in the LWVGE Position on "Glen Ellyn Selection of Village and Library Boards (2008)" were discussed, and a consensus was reached. Membership will be voting on the recommended changes at the Annual Meeting.

Much is happening in the LWVGE regarding support of potential affordable housing on the Roosevelt Rd. property bought by the Village in 2022. Our website and engaging, educational social media postings on affordable and attainable housing created by VP of Communications, Karin Daly have generated much interest and traffic. An Open House hosted by the Village was held at the Village Links on March 7 to review the process and timeline of the project. LWVGE made a public statement at this informative event, and many other LWVGE members were in attendance, demonstrating our support for affordable/attainable housing in the final plans for the property. This issue will be a continuing focus for us. Read an update in this *Voter* from League Issues director, Joyce Hothan, and about a social media bump earned through public interest from Karin Daly.

The DuPage County Election Division reached out to the DuPage County Leagues to collaborate on demonstrating the new election equipment, which will debut in the June 28 Primary. Leagues have been assigned a calendar slot to demonstrate the equipment to their respective communities. Glen Ellyn is assigned May 31 through June 6 and LWVGE's demonstrations will be held at the GE Public Library as well as other potential locations. A Community Meeting discussing the upcoming 2022 elections, the Glen Ellyn redistricting map, and demonstration of the new voting equipment is scheduled for Thursday, June 2 at the GEPL.

We also recognize our group's significant input at the recent DuPage County Social Studies Teacher Conference. LWVGE participated along with DuPage Sister Leagues. You'll read more information below.

The DuPage Sister Leagues Voter Service Teams are coordinating Candidate Forums for the June 28 Primary. LWVGE will take the lead with primary forums for Congressional District 6 and monitor the need for DuPage County Board District 4. Be sure to reach out to Voter Services if you are willing to assist in this critical area of League work.

Working to Empower Voters,
Sarah Allen and Michelle Z. Thorsell, Co-Presidents

[Visit Our Website](#)

Reaching and Teaching

Earlier this month, DuPage-area Leagues of Women Voters were on hand to encourage high school student outreach at the DuPage County Social Studies Conference - with 800+ teachers participating in Aurora as part of the state's largest conference for social studies teachers! Leagues from the Aurora Area, Downers Grove, Wheaton, Roselle/ Bloomingdale, Central Kane County, Glen Ellyn, and Naperville were represented. You'll notice our Suffragist cut out, by our own Lynn Bruno! A flier, created by our VP of Communications Karin Daly, included website links, a QR code link to a short survey to identify ways LWV can assist teachers in reaching students so they can be active, informed citizens, plus voter registration information, and a QR code to register to vote. The educators seemed very receptive to the LWV outreach. Well done!



League Annual Awards: Nominations Sought

One of the most anticipated components of the League's Annual Meeting is the presentation of the prestigious annual awards to League members for:

Susan B Anthony Voter Service Award: Someone who has worked diligently to register voters and inform voters on candidates & issues

Outstanding New League Members Service Award: New member who has been actively involved and has taken a leadership role

Phyllis Renfro Community Action Award: Someone who has been exceptionally active in League and an activist in the community

Nominate a deserving member you think merits recognition!

Please send your nomination, including a short paragraph of why you nominated this individual and what the person has accomplished in the past year, to Candy Purdom, candacepurdom@gmail.com. The awards will be announced at the annual meeting on April 28. All nominations **MUST BE RECEIVED** by April 8, so do not delay!!!

A committee will review the submissions and select the recipients of this year's awards. Award winners will be announced and celebrated at the annual meeting on April 28.

Thanks in advance for your help!

Submitted by Candy Purdom, Awards Committee



League of Women Voters 55th National Convention 2022 "Women Power Democracy" Denver: June 23 - 26, 2022

LWVUS 2022 National Convention will for the first time be hybrid, with both in-person and virtual participation. Based on LWVGE membership total, we are allotted three delegates: Co-President, Sarah Allen; Voter Services, Bernie Laszewski; and new member Barbara Kwiatkowsky will be heading to Denver to represent our League. It promises to be an exciting and impact-driven event!

Submitted by Sarah Allen, Co-President

CIVIC BETTERMENT PARTY STUDY: REVISED POSITION TO BE CONSIDERED AT ANNUAL MEETING

Last fall, a committee of League members undertook a comprehensive study of the Civic Betterment Party (CBP) and the role it plays in our Village elections. It had been determined during Program Planning that our LWVGE 2008 position "Selection of Village and Library Board Offices," should be updated.

On Thursday, March 3, the Study Committee held a Consensus Meeting for League members. Research was presented followed by discussion among those attending the meeting. In conclusion, the following Consensus Questions were asked, Does the Civic Betterment Party still meet the needs of the Village of Glen Ellyn? and Do we still support the "Guidelines for Participation in the Local Nominating Process"? (pp. 13-14 of the 2021-2022 LWVGE Membership Directory.)

Following the Consensus Meeting, the Study Committee met and drafted a revised Position, incorporating those elements that were discussed and agreed upon at the Consensus Meeting. The updated position was approved by the LWVGE Board at their March board meeting.

At our LWVGE Annual Meeting on April 28, members will be asked to consider and approve the updated position. The committee's Civic Betterment Party Study report and the updated CBP Position are attached to the buttons readers will find below.

If you have questions relating to the CBP Study, please email co-chairs Carrie Burrows, carrieb131@gmail.com and Sonja Faulkner, jtf-slf@sbcglobal.net. Other committee members are Gail Bernstein, Rita Doyle, Barbara Kwiatkowsky, Bernadette Laszewski, Kristin Malone, and Michelle Peterson.
Submitted by Carrie Burrows and Sonja Faulkner, CBP Study Co-Chairs

Get Informed!

Our Annual Meeting gives us a chance to review the important workings of LWVGE. To that end, we offer the following documents for your careful consideration. Please make time to review the information linked here prior to our annual meeting on April 28 at 6:15 pm. And watch for invitations to come!

Minutes for our 2021 Annual Meeting

Proposed Budget for 2022-23

Slate of League Board Candidates

Position Update: Civic Betterment Party

Civic Betterment Party Full Report



At our Program Planning meeting on February 5, the LWVGE positions were reviewed to determine if they positions adequately reflect current conditions, to assess if the position is still applicable, to identify any needed modifications and to highlight potential areas that should be covered in our positions. This year, there was a consensus of the members in attendance that two important subjects are not covered and should be studied with a recommendation for a new LWVGE position presented to the full membership at a future Annual Meeting.

1. Financial applications used by the Village of Glen Ellyn, such as TIF Districts, impact fees: what are they, and who is affected by them? The question should be answered: "Do these financial applications serve Glen Ellyn residents & businesses?" Michelle Peterson & Bernadette Laszewski have volunteered to lead this study if approved by League membership.
2. Standards on Environmental Needs in Glen Ellyn is currently not addressed in the LWVGE positions as it relates to the Village, Park District, Library, Schools and local Businesses. An example of environmental need is the walkability in and around town. Karin Daly and Alix Darrow have volunteered to lead this study if approved by League membership.

Submitted by Co-Presidents, Sarah Allen and Michelle Thorzell

Your Kind
Attention is
Needed:

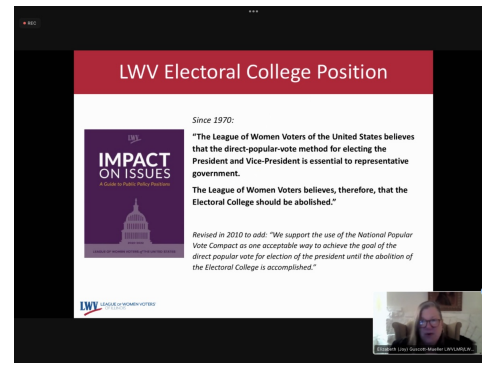
Two studies will be
recommended to
the LWVGE
membership at the
Annual Meeting on
April 28, 2022.

February Community Meeting



LWVGE was pleased to welcome 48 attendees via Zoom to our February Community Meeting, a very informative session explaining the Electoral College and changes the LWVUS endorses.

Featured speakers included Joy Muscott-Mueller and Joyce Williams. Both women are League



members in their communities and issues specialists for abolishing the electoral college.

If you missed the February meeting and would like to see the meeting in its entirety, please visit:

Electoral College Community Meeting

Our League's Affordable Housing Advocacy Continues



Thank you to all of our members who took the time to advocate for the League's position on affordable housing in Glen Ellyn. **Please continue your efforts!**

Through emails, letters and public comment, we have made our League's position known that states in part that "Safe, quality affordable housing is essential to the health and well-being of individuals, families and to the community."

We have also advocated for more community engagement and participation in the process of deciding what will be built on a parcel of land purchased by the Village at Roosevelt/ Taft Avenues.

To that end, the Village Trustees amended their initial contract with Kon Savoy Consulting Firm to have more listening sessions on the front end of the decision making process. They also requested the addition of more community members to the "charette process" which initially was to include only staff and Trustees. (The Charette Procedure works by organizing people into smaller groups. Brainstorming continues one group at a time until all groups have had the opportunity to participate.)

The Village Board also approved the establishment of an "Ad Hoc Work Group to take resident input regarding the redevelopment of the properties and summarize and share input with the Village Board as to the type or types of redevelopment which best represents the interests of the Village".

President Senak and Trustee Payne will be co-chairs with nine additional residents of the Village appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Village Board. These appointments may well be made by the time of this article's publication.

Our League Co-Presidents sent a letter stating our position. It is posted on the Village website portal dedicated to this issue. Please visit it to see all community emails sent thus far. Also at the "Community Open House" held at the Village Links on March 7, our Co-President Sarah Allen spoke regarding this issue on behalf of our membership.

Also speaking that night was our League member, Miles Evans, who spoke of his own need for affordable housing as a person with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Please continue to stay informed and active regarding this issue. **Our community needs those who need affordable housing!**

Submitted by Joyce Hothan, League Issues Director

Media Relations Report

Media Relations Director Karen Schultz extended LWVGE's reach in the community recently after meeting with Grant Paplauskus, new Communications Coordinator for the village of Glen Ellyn at the Civic Center on March 2, 2022. They reviewed details and formats for including our publicity in the village e-newsletter and for the village e-board and discussed deadlines for posting our publicity.

Schultz also participated in Charlotte Walter bequest discussions and is helping to develop the Democracy Contest details. Will be contacting Glenbard South regarding participating in the LWVGE Democracy Contest. The new Democracy Contest will be in Walter's memory.

The best publicity is always *word of mouth*. More than ever, as Media Relations Director, I urge you to reach out to fellow voters and guide them to our website and social media. They both have excellent information on voting, election information, upcoming activities, and ways to become involved with the League. LWVGE is counting on you!

Karen Schulz, Media Relations Director 2021-2022

March Community Meeting



Our recent March Community Meeting focused on *Voting Rights, Voter Suppression and Election Security*. Our very knowledgeable

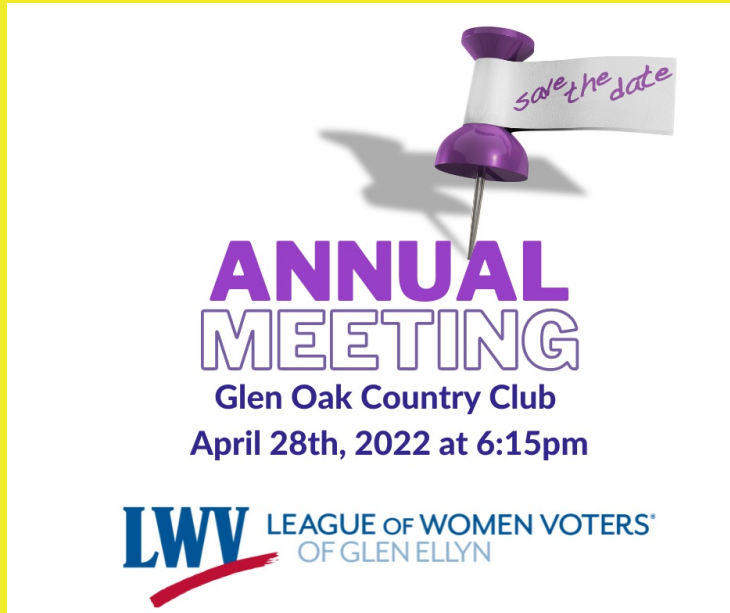


About 40 people Zoomed in for this important program where Limper stressed how significant voting issues are for the nation: "Access to the right

presenter was Donna Limper, the Chapter Leader for the DuPage County RepresentUs group and the LWV Roselle/ Bloomingdale Issues and Advocacy Chair.

to vote increasingly depends on the state where the voter lives," Limper said, stressing that attention needs to be paid to voting inequality. "Our democracy is fundamentally at stake."

Annual Meeting/Membership Report



It's Spring! That can only mean it is time for our Annual Meeting!

A **bright yellow** envelope will soon be arriving in your mailbox with all the exciting and important details. The *exciting* part is your invitation for the evening of Thursday, April 28. We will return to Glen Oak Country Club, 21W451 Hill Ave., Glen Ellyn- the first time to hold this event in person since April of 2019! You just HAVE to be there! The invite will include a

tear-off portion for you to RSVP, and if you are a "YES!", you will also want to indicate your dinner choice.

Our evening is set as:

6:15-7:00- Cocktails and Conversation

7:00- Dinner is served

8:00- Program begins

Additionally in this **bright yellow** envelope, will be the *important* Member Interest/Dues Renewal Form. **PLEASE** make sure you check that your personal information is correct, and fill this form out for us so we are aware of your current level of interest in the wide variety of activities we offer. We really count on getting these back, along with your dues for the May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023 year. We greatly appreciate your timeliness in returning this form, even if you are unable to make the Annual Meeting. If you are not planning to renew your membership, please drop me a text at 630-291-0269 to ensure that I don't bother you later about it.

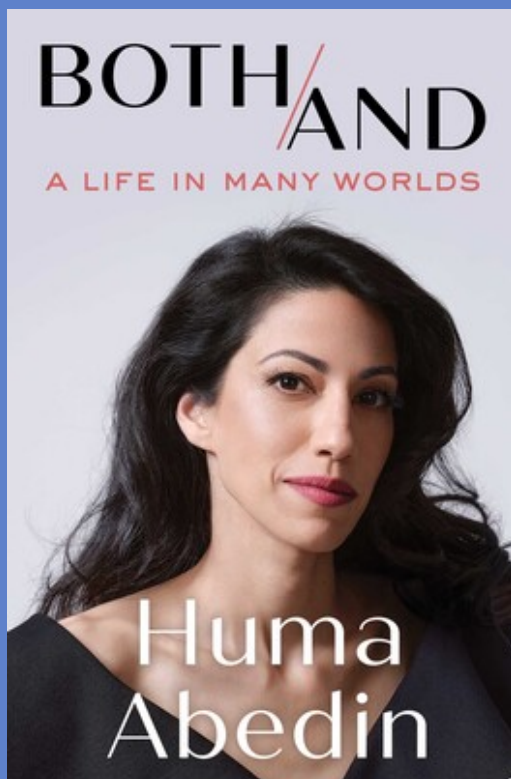
We look forward to seeing, and I mean really SEEING, as many of our members as possible! We have added more than 50 new members since the world shut down due to Covid, many of whom we have never been able to meet in person. It will be fun to have that opportunity at last!

Speaking of membership, we now stand at 199 members strong! Please welcome our newest:

Rita McGovern 556 N. Rosebud Drive N, Lombard; 630-310-4438; ritamcgovern@aol.com

Maria Metz 574 Hillside Avenue, Glen Ellyn; 630-200-2222; mariatmetz@outlook.com

Keep a look out for that **bright yellow** envelope coming to your house soon!



Looking forward to an *in-person* Book Club meeting on June 25 at 9:00 am. Our next discussion **will be at the home of Shawn Fasules, 755 Chidester Ave, Glen Ellyn.** (Please note the new location!) Our featured book is *Both/And* by Huma Abedin.

About the Book: A *New York Times* bestseller, this extraordinary memoir from Huma Abedin—Hillary Clinton’s famously private top aide and longtime advisor—offers “a gripping testament to the power of a woman finding her voice, owning her ambition, and sharing her truth” (Glennon Doyle).

Abedin’s stunning memoir garnered an extraordinary amount of media coverage, with appearances on CBS *Sunday Morning*, the *Today* show, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, *The View*, *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, *Christiane Amanpour*, and coverage in many other outlets, including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and NPR.

Upcoming Book Club

Abedin launched full steam into a college internship in the office of the First Lady in 1996, never imagining that her work at the White House would blossom into a career in public service, nor that her career would become an all-consuming way of life. She thrived in rooms with diplomats and sovereigns, entrepreneurs and artists, philanthropists and activists, and witnessed many crucial moments in 21st-century American history—Camp David for urgent efforts at Middle East peace in the waning months of the Clinton administration, Ground Zero in the days after the September 11 attacks, the inauguration of the first African American president of the United States, and the convention floor when America nominated its first female presidential candidate.

Abedin’s relationship with Hillary Clinton has seen both women through extraordinary personal and professional highs, as well as unimaginable lows.

Both/And is “the story of a person of substance—someone determined to tell her own story” (*The New York Times*) including the heartbreaking chronicle of her marriage to Anthony Weiner, what drew her to him, how much she wanted to believe in him, the devastation wrought by his betrayals—and their shared love for their son.

Abedin’s journey through the opportunities and obstacles, the trials and triumphs, of a full and complex life is a testament to her profound belief that in an increasingly either/or world, she can be both/and. Abedin’s compassion and courage, her resilience and grace, her work ethic and mission are an inspiration to women of all ages. Submitted by Shawn Fasules, Book Club Chair

The daughter of Indian and Pakistani intellectuals and advocates, Abedin grew up in the United States and Saudi Arabia and traveled widely. *Both/And* grapples with family, legacy, identity, faith, marriage, motherhood—and work—with wisdom, sophistication, grace, and clarity.



Anatomy of a ‘Viral’ League Post

Recently one of our League’s social media posts went a little viral, and was seen by a record (for us!) 44,882 people. It received 1,455 “engagements,” which means likes, comments and shares. And 1,754 people clicked on the link that we posted.

How did this happen? It shows the power of networks. We wanted a campaign to bring attention to the effort to bring attainable housing to Glen Ellyn, including supportive housing for our neighbors who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). We created a series of social media posts featuring the types of Glen Ellyn residents who might live in attainable housing. Two residents agreed to be in one of the posts in our series –

Miles Evans and Robert Atchison. (Miles is a League member, as are his parents Julie and Dave!). You can see the post here. Now as wonderful as that picture is, we did not get to 44k people just with their smiles alone. Rather, this League post was shared on several different Facebook groups that host discussions on matters related to IDD by Robert’s mother, Renie Atchinson. And from there, others who cared about the topic shared it too. The combination of the post’s content, their picture and her sharing it with interested groups was the right alchemy for it to go viral.

The lesson for us is that if there is a topic we care about and want to ensure the largest number of people know about it, hit that share button and post it on groups you interact with as well as your own social media feed. And make sure you follow the League on all of our social media platforms!

Submitted by Karin Daly, VP of Communications

Please Support our Local Advertisers. Ads Found Here.

CALENDAR

April 14 - LWVGE Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, location/Zoom to be determined.

April 28 - Annual Meeting/Award Dinner, 6:30 pm. Glen Oak Country Club.

May 12- Old Board/New Board Meeting, details to come.

May 31-June 6 - DuPage County New Voting Machine Demonstrations, Glen Ellyn Library.

June 25- LWVGE Book Club, 9:00 am, Home of Shawn Fasules, 75 Chidester Ave., Glen Ellyn. (Please note new location.)

Plans for events are subject to change. To avoid disappointment, please check the LWVGE website for final details.

Questions about League events? Get details here:
www.lwvge.org.

Please visit our website for the most current information.

PO Box 2391, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

