



LEAGUE LINES

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

May 2008

Take note:

- Visit VOTE411.org for all your election information needs! Sponsored by LWV.
- Save the date! Barbara Rinella is booked for the annual Holiday Luncheon fundraiser on December 15, 2008.
- The May board meeting has been changed from Monday, May 12 to Monday, May 5 at 12:30 p.m. at Gorton Community Center. All board meetings are open to members. Minutes are available at www.lwv-lflb.org.

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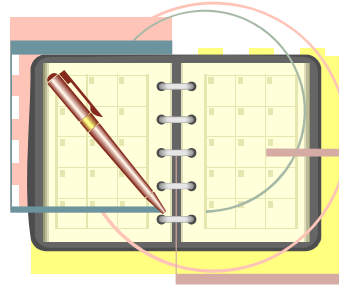
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May Is Annual Meeting Time

The annual meeting is one of the most important general membership meetings of the year for LWV. It gives members an opportunity to direct the future of their League. Holding an annual meeting is one of the essential requirements for a local League.

The purposes of the annual meeting are to:

- Elect the board or leadership team for the coming year.
- Adopt a local program that reflects the interests of the membership.
- Approve a budget that provides financial support for the League's activities.



- Review and/or amend the bylaws that govern the group's operations.

The annual meeting is an enjoyable social event as well as a business meeting. It's a great time to catch up with old League friends and meet newer members.

Members will receive an annual meeting packet in the mail approximately two weeks before the meeting. Please bring it with you

to the meeting; it will contain all the information you need to vote on the officers, program, budget, and bylaws.

Please join us at this year's annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 20, 6:00 p.m.
At the home of Cindy Morehead
14 Forest Hills Rd., Lake Bluff
A Light Catered Dinner Will Be Served

RSVP with a \$10 check made out to Ann Grant. Send RSVPs to Ann Grant, 315 E. Washington, Lake Bluff, IL 60044.

Voter Registration News

New Voter Registration Chairs in Place

In February Dodie Cook resigned as our local Voter Registration Chair. Dottie Fletcher and Jan Schnobrich have begun to take over the responsibilities of registering voters, and Dodie is supporting them in the transition.

The board thanks Dodie for the excellent job she has done and welcomes Dottie and Jan.

Voter Registration Drives

The LWV-LFLB is busy registering new voters. Voter registrations have taken place at the North Chicago Unit School District on April 15 and Lake Forest High School on April 30.

Upcoming registrations include Zion Benton High School on May 1 and Waukegan High School on May 14.

Perhaps you have friends or loved ones who are not local but still need to register to vote this year. Send them to VOTE411.org, where they can follow the instructions for their area to register to vote.

Voter registration for the November 4 election is open through October 7. Any U.S. citizen who will be 18 years or older by November 4 may register now.

League Lines

More Opportunities to Network with Fellow Leaguers



“The National Convention is a magnet for passionate and articulate Leaguers working to improve our nation through democracy.”

Great Decisions

The next Great Decisions meeting is Friday, May 9, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Buker, 485 N. Oakwood, #A3, Lake Forest. The topic is “Russia and Putinism.” Great Decisions meets the second Friday of each month to discuss foreign policy issues. For more information, contact Pat Rounsaville at (847) 295-3916.

LWV National Convention

The LWV-US’s 48th Convention is scheduled for June 13 - 17 in Portland, Oregon. The LWV-LFLB will be sending one voting delegate to the convention. However, the Convention is open to **all** LWV members.

The National Convention is always a magnet for passionate and articulate Leaguers working to improve our nation through democracy. For more specific information

about the convention or attending the convention, details are available in the February issue of the National Voter (which was mailed to all local League members) and at www.lwv.org/convention.

League of Women Voters of Lake County Annual Meeting

Save the date! The LWV of Lake County is holding its annual meeting on **June 28, 2008**. (Location

and time to be announced later.)

The LWV of Lake County’s Annual Meeting is a great place to meet members of other Leagues and to discuss issues that affect us regionally. Linda Bartmes, Lake County Liaison, reports that the County League is working on the Real ID and Death Penalty issues.

Watch your e-mail and your mailbox for the specific time and place of the Annual Meeting and plan to attend.

LWVIL Issues Briefing Report

by Carol Gilbert

LWVIL President Paula Lawson welcomed 150 Illinois League members to the Annual Issues Briefing on February 23. The morning’s feature topic was “Con-Con” – the Constitutional Convention call that occurs every 20 years as required by the 1970 Illinois Constitution. Sadly, our scheduled “pro” speaker, Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, lost his father early that morning. In the absence of a speaker on behalf of Con-Con, attorney Nancy Kaszak gamely listed arguments for both sides. Even so, it was clear she prefers that constitution modifications be made by individual amendment, not a convention administered by our current General Assembly. Moderator Paul Green maximized his unexpected opportunity to speak extemporaneously, saying “For the first time I don’t know what the endgame is for these legislators...they don’t make sense....Illinois’ accountants

went to the college of Houdini!”

LWVIL issue specialists addressed five hot topics at the morning convocation:

1. Claire McIntyre updated us on education legislation. Current initiatives center on trading income tax monies for property tax monies. Last year’s session brought no relief to public schools’ property tax dependency. SB 2288 is on the Senate floor for the first time, with 15 co-sponsors.
2. Jean Sanger reported that the Voter Service team is offering moderator training on May 10 and seeking volunteers to run local Illinois Student Vote mock elections in November.
3. The Show Us amendment report was given by Chris Slowik. The Show Us amendment would require any non-emergency bill to have a 21-day public review period before the Illinois General Assembly can take a final vote. The pos-

sibility of a Constitutional Convention has diluted interest for the moment, but the Show Us Amendment’s call for accountability will likely be revived.

4. Paula Lawson reported on climate change initiatives. The RES (Renewable Energy Standard) bill requires Illinois utilities to supply at least 2% of power from renewable sources, increasing to 25% by 2025. The EEPS (Energy Efficient Portfolio Standards) bill imposes efficiency standards on Illinois utilities.
5. Gun violence specialist Barb Marsh reported on urgent efforts. Amid intense lobbying after the Virginia Tech massacre, SB 940 passed, which improves the state’s mental health reporting. Now efforts are targeted at SB 1007, which bans the ammunition magazines typical of semi-automatic weapons, and HB 758, which requires background checks for private handgun transfers.

May 2008

*LWVIL Issues Briefing Report
continued*

Afternoon sessions featured breakout workshops on three action items: climate change, education funding, and immigration. An area of concern for immigration policy is that local municipalities' practices toward immigrants vary greatly. Chicago became a sanctuary city in 2006, and Evans-

ton is currently proposing an ordinance to do so. In contrast, Waukegan has applied to U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement to get training so its local police can initiate deportation proceedings. Waukegan's plan is to apply these powers to criminals only. Chicago's contrasting policy is that immigration enforcement is the sole responsibility of

the INS, not local police. Though LWVUS is now drafting its study on immigration, LWVIL has already adopted a position. LWVIL believes the state should provide orientation and counseling services for immigrants regardless of their documentation status, and local Leagues are encouraged to participate in advocacy.

"The core advocacy issue and priority of LWVIL in 2008 is fiscal policy/funding of public education and social services."

Action Still Needed for Education Funding

Claire McIntyre, Education Specialist, and Sylvia Tillman, Vice President, Issues and Advocacy for the LWVIL, are calling on members to contact their state senators to encourage them to vote yes for the passage of SB2288, Fiscal Policy/School Funding. The bill was put on the calendar for second reading in early April.

Action Requested: Please call your state senator and urge her/him to vote yes for passage of SB2288.

Brief Description: Senate Bill 2288 provides a new, permanent

revenue source for schools, property tax relief for homeowners, and a billion dollars for debt service for a state infrastructure program; raises personal and corporate income taxes; provides a refundable Family Tax Credit for households up to an annual income of \$55,000; expands early childhood programs; increases the reimbursement for special education personnel; and increases the foundation level over a four-year period.

The core advocacy issue and priority of LWVIL in 2008 is fiscal

policy/funding of public education and social services. SB2288 is proposed legislation for tax reform that will significantly improve education funding while lowering property taxes. This bill provides for consistent, equitable, sustainable funding for schools, providing increases for the foundation level and for some of the costs of providing special education programs. It increases the personal and corporate income taxes, which is anticipated to raise a total of \$7.3 billion and provide \$2.9 billion in property tax relief.

LWV-LFLB Board Members

LWV Lake County Liaison:
Linda Bartmes

Voter Registration:
Dottie Fletcher &
Jan Schnobrich

Past President:
Happie Taunque Datt

Assistant Treasurer:
Ann Grant

Voter Services:
Judy Grisamore

LMILO Liaison:
Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden

Treasurer:
Cindy Morehead

Immigration/Affordable
Housing:
Jane Partridge

Secretary:
Marilyn Shineflug

Off-Board Positions

Webmaster:
Nicki Snoblin

Newsletter Staff:
Bev Adamczyk &
Nicki Snoblin

LWV Moderator Training

Moderating forums is one of the most important educational services the LWV offers. Be prepared for the candidate season by attending one of two upcoming training events—one of which will be presented by our own past president Diane Lloyd.

SESSION 1

Date: Sunday, May 4, 2008

Time: 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Sponsor: LWVIL

Hosts: LWV of Evanston

Cost: \$5 donation at the door to help cover cost of refreshments.

Presenter: Expert Moderator Diane Lloyd. Materials will be provided.

Place: King Home, 1555 Oak Ave., Evanston (northeast corner of Oak and Grove, 1 block east of Ridge, 1 block south of Davis, 1 block north of Lake Street)

Parking: Parking lot east of the King Home; enter the alley just north of the King Home; look for "King Home Visitor" signs

RSVP: By Thursday, May 1; e-mail to RSVP@LWVE.org or telephone Melinda Dworkin at (847) 475-4849.

SESSION 2

Date: Saturday, May 10, 2008

Time: 10:00 AM to Noon

Sponsor: LWVIL

Place: League Offices, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1150, Chicago

RSVP: voterservice@lwvil.org to register, or call 708-246-5052.



League of Women Voters of
the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

400 East Illinois Road
Lake Forest, IL 60044

E-mail: contact@lww-lflb.org

We're on the Web!

www.lww-lflb.org

The League of Women Voters— Making Democracy Work®

Calendar of Events

May 1	Voter Registration at Zion Benton High School
May 4	Moderator Training, 2:00-5:00 p.m., King Home, 1555 Oak Ave., Evanston
May 5	LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 12:30 pm., Gorton Community Center
May 9	Great Decisions, "Russia and Putinism," 1:00 p.m., 485 N. Oakwood, #A3, Lake Forest
May 10	Moderator Training, 10:00 a.m. -12:00, 332 S. Michagan Ave., Suite 1150, Chicago
May 14	Voter Registration at Waukegan High School
May 20	Annual Meeting, 6:00 p.m., 14 Forest Hills Road, Lake Bluff
June 13-17	LWVUS 48th Convention, Portland, Oregon
June 28	Lake County League Annual Meeting

LMILO Report

by Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden

As part of the annual Great Lakes Day in Washington DC on February 27-28, 2008, the Healing Our Waters (HOW)—Great Lakes Coalition gathered members and allies from the Great Lakes states to Washington to discuss with our elected officials the importance of restoring and protecting the Great Lakes.

This year, Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden, board member of LWV-LFLB, along with several other members from Lake County traveled to Washington on behalf of LWVUS and LMILO to meet with Illinois senators and representatives and to lobby for Great Lakes appropriations in support of the LWV positions on the environment.

Top priorities for 2009 appropriations requests included in the HOW—Great Lakes Coalition were focused on restoring

the President's original fiscal commitment to the Great Lakes Regional Collaborative, which was a historic initiative kick-started by the Bush Administration in recognition of the importance of the Great Lakes Region. Unfortunately, the President's proposed budget for 2009 shortchanged the Lakes in many areas.

Our members of Congress can help lay a foundation for long-term Great Lakes restoration and health by supporting key investments in the 2009 budget. Until the Great Lakes Regional Collaborative Strategy is enacted by Congress, it is important for the legislators to support increases in current Great Lakes programs in the 2009 federal budget.

Along with the other 225 members of the Coalition who were present in Washington, our representatives from LMILO

spent two days meeting with Congressional legislators from all eight Great Lakes states to discuss our concerns and ask for specific measures to be met and taken in this session and prior to the November election.

Our local League members should continue to communicate their priorities, as well as those of the LWVIL regarding our specific concerns about Lake Michigan. All of our elected officials here in Illinois pledged their support to conserving and restoring Lake Michigan, but shared their concerns about the harsh realities of budgetary constraints resulting from record spending at the federal level these past four to five years. They cautioned against unrealistic expectations before the November election, but pledged to work to the best of their ability to keep our concerns at the forefront of any discussions of money spent on environmental programs.