



LEAGUE LINES

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

September 2008

Take Note:

- League's Annual Holiday Luncheon

Save the date! Barbara Rinella is booked! The Lake Forest Book Store is preparing a tailor-made selection for you. The Annual Holiday Luncheon fundraiser will be on **December 15, 2008** at 10:00 a.m. at The Grille on Laurel in Lake Forest. Start thinking about who you might like to invite to this cherished event.

Letter from the Co-Presidents

Welcome to a new year for the League of Women Voters! This election year is a great opportunity to remind all of us of the importance of being involved and well informed. We have many exciting events planned for this fall—two candidate forums as well as a joint Presidential debate and Con-Con meeting on October 7th. Please don't forget to renew your membership. We also urge you to invite a



Election Day is November 4th.

friend to one or all of these programs. This is an ideal time to recruit new mem-

bers for our League.

Please call Lisa, Cindy, or Judy Grisamore if you would like to help at one of the candidate forums. We are eager, as well, to hear what you want from your League; we welcome your suggestions and opinions. We look forward to seeing you soon.

—Cindy Morehead and Lisa Dietrich

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Candidate Forums

On Sundays at 2:00 p.m., from September 28 to October 19, see the candidates you will be voting for in No-

vember. The LWV-LFLB is sponsoring or co-sponsoring many candidate

forums this fall. Be sure to add the following dates to your election-year calendar!

- **Lake County Offices (co-sponsored by the Daily Herald and the AAUW)**
Sunday, September 28 at 2 p.m.

Warren Newport Public Library, 224 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee

Circuit Court Clerk: Sally Coffelt (R) v. Cynthia Prurim Haran (D)

Coroner: Richard Keller (D) v. Michael Oster (R)

State's Attorney: Michael Jacobs (D) v. Michael Waller (R)

Judge 19th Circuit, A, Subcircuit 1: George Bridges (R) v. Jay Ukena (D)

Judge 19th Circuit, A, Subcircuit 2: Valerie Ceckowski (R) v. David S. Weinstein (D)

- **58th State Representative District: Karen May (D) and Tim Stratton (R)**
Sunday, October 5, 2:00 p.m.

Patty Turner Senior Center, 375 Elm Street, Deerfield

- **10th Congressional District: Mark Kirk (R) and Dan Seals (D)**
Sunday, October 19, 2:00 p.m.

Deerfield High School, Waukegan Road, Deerfield

League Lines

Constitutional Convention Talk and the Presidential Debate



Be an informed voter in the November election, both locally and nationally! Come for a double feature on Tuesday, October 7th. You'll hear David Kohn, Public Relations Director for the Union League Club of Chicago, speak about Con-Con, the provision on the ballot to call a constitutional convention in Illinois. Then stay and watch the Presidential debate on a large-screen TV with your

League friends.

The Union League Club has dedicated several forums this year to Con-Con, culminating in a debate between proponents, represented by Lieutenant Governor Patrick Quinn, and opponents, represented by former State Comptroller Dawn Clark Netsch. Mr. Kohn will review the main arguments for each side of the Con-Con issue and answer questions.

Date:

Tuesday, October 7

Time:

7:00 p.m.

Place:

LF/LB Senior Center

Dickinson Hall

100 East Old Mill Road

Lake Forest

See you there!

In Memoriam

The League acknowledges with sorrow the passing of board member Dottie Fletcher on June 5, 2008. At the time of her death, she was Co-Chair of Voter Registration for our local League. In addition to her enthusiastic and generous support of LWV-LFLB, Dottie was an avid gardener, a volunteer tutor for underprivileged children, and a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother.

Many LWV members have expressed their deep sadness regarding the loss of Dottie. Many of us had been friends of hers and worked with her for many years. We are grateful for Dottie's service and will miss her.

Area Voter Registration

As a nonpartisan organization, the League plays a special role in voter registration, as is evidenced by the areas in which we have the opportunity to register voters. Below are reports from both LWV-LFLB and LWVLC on voter registration activities.

From Jan Schnobrich, Director, Voter Registration, LWV-LFLB:

From April to May 2008, the LWV-LFLB registered voters at the North Chicago Unit School District, Lake Forest High School, Zion-Benton High School, and Waukegan High School, registering 180 voters.

Over the summer and into the fall the League has registered voters at the North Chicago Public Library, Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Senior

Center, the Lake Bluff Public Library, Lake Forest Place, and the Lake Forest Public Library.

Many thanks to our volunteer registrars: Phyllis Albrecht, Dodie Cook, Happie Datt, Mary Ritter, Jo-An Sabonjian, Diane Sanderson, Alice Sievert, Stephanie Victor, Marianne Wood, and Sally Zeit, who have given of their time and effort to date, and will continue to do so during September and early October. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Registrations:

Saturday, September 27
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Lake Forest Library

Saturday, October 4
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lake Bluff Library

From Jo-An Sabonjian, Director, LWVLC:

LWV of Lake County has been busy with voter registration drives. We registered 80 people during student class registration at Warren Township High School in Gurnee at the end of July. In addition, plans are in the works to register students at Waukegan High School before the October 7 registration deadline.

On September 18 we registered voters at the Crate and Barrel corporate headquarters in Northbrook. We were joined by League registrars who are deputized through the Cook County Clerk's Office.

September 2008

Voting Information

Election Calendar:

- *First Day to Request an Absentee Ballot:*
September 25
- *Last Day to Register:*
October 7
- *Early Voting:*
October 14 to 30
- *Election Day:*
November 4

For more voting information, here are some handy web resources:

www.co.lake.il.us

Lake County website (go to voter information). Check that you are registered to vote, find your polling place and see a sample ballot. You can also get information on

absentee voting and early voting here.

www.elections.il.gov

State of Illinois election website. If you live outside of Lake County, or have friends or family who do, this site will lead them to their local election authority.

www.vote411.org

League of Women Voters of the U.S. Find polling places, regardless of where you live. Download a mail-in registration form from this site. Find absentee ballot information for friends and loved ones.

For in-depth information on early voting and early voting locations in Illinois:

www.elections.il.gov/Downloads/ElectionInformation/PDF/EarlyVoting.pdf

www.elections.il.gov/Downloads/ElectionInformation/EarlyVotingLocations.aspx

www.elections.il.gov/Downloads/ElectionInformation/EarlyVotingLocations.aspx

www.elections.il.gov/Downloads/ElectionInformation/EarlyVotingLocations.aspx

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www.elections.il.gov/Downloads/ElectionInformation/EarlyVotingLocations.aspx

For those of you who prefer to use the phone, start to find the answers to your questions by calling the Lake County Clerk's Office for the following information:

- *Absentee Voting:*
847.377.2406
- *Polling Places:*
847.377.2314
- *Voter Registration:*
847.377.2410



LWV-LFLB BOARD MEMBERS

Co-Presidents:

Lisa Dietrich & Cindy Morehead

VP, Voter Service:

Judy Grisamore

Secretary:

Marilyn Shineflug

Treasurer:

Liz Bradner

Membership:

Ann Grant

Voter Registration:

Jan Schnobrich

Program:

Jane Partridge

Communication:

Carol Gilbert

LWV Lake County Liaison:

Linda Bartmes

LMILO Liaison:

Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden

Off-Board Positions

Webmaster:

Nicki Snoblin

Newsletter Staff:

Bev Adamczyk & Nicki Snoblin

Events of Interest to League Members

LMILO Annual Meeting: "Behind the Headlines: What's REALLY Happening on the Lake's South Shore"

The Lake Michigan Inter-League Organization invites all LWV-LFLB members to attend their Annual Meeting. The LMILO pools energy from various Leagues surrounding Lake Michigan to focus on issues concerning the lake.

Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11
Hilton Garden Inn
501 Gateway Blvd.

U.S. Hwy. 49 & I-80 (Indiana Toll Road)
Chesterton, Indiana 46304
219.983.9500

www.chesterton.gardeninn.com

\$70/LWV members; \$80/nonmembers.
Includes Friday dinner and Saturday lunch.

Lake County Women's Coalition Tea

All Lake County Leagues are members of the Coalition through the LWVLC.

The tea is a fundraiser for a CLC scholarship for an older (30+) returning female student. This year the coalition is honoring female police officers in Lake County.

Sunday, October 5, 12:30 p.m.

Country Squire Restaurant, Grayslake
(near Rts. 120 & 45)

Tickets are \$20 each

We are hoping to fill a table of 10. Please contact Sally Zeit at 847-244-1347 or salz@mailstation.com if you would like to attend. We would also like to contribute a silent auction item. If you are able to donate an item, please let Sally know.

League Lines

Report from the National Convention in Portland, Oregon



“The convention was fascinating, exhilarating, and sometimes frustrating and exhausting. From the 850 Leagues in the U.S., there were 684 voting delegates at the convention from 49 states and 14 ILOs.”



The Convention was held in June in scenic Portland, Oregon.

Three of our members, Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden, Cindy Morehead, and Jane Partridge, attended the National Convention in Portland, Oregon in June. The convention was fascinating, exhilarating, and sometimes frustrating and exhausting. From the 850 Leagues in the U.S., there were 684 voting delegates at the convention from 49 states and 14 ILOs. President Mary Wilson kept everything on track in a business-like and very pleasant manner.

There were five days of plenary sessions, workshops, and caucuses. Three outstanding speakers were Barbara Roberts, the first woman governor of Oregon; John Kitzhaber, governor of Oregon from 1993-2001; and former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Love Kourlis. In addition, there was an interesting panel discussion on Global Climate Change.

The speakers focused on public policy issues. John Kitzhaber, a former physician as well as governor, presented a clear and convincing talk on universal health care. The Global Climate Change presentation was given by a professor from the Scripps Institute and a staff member of Oxfam. Justice Kourlis' powerful presentation was made possible because she resigned from her position to

head a think tank for judicial reform at the University of Denver.

A practical and useful workshop was on membership recruitment. Two years ago the LWWUS adopted a membership recruitment initiative that began with a pilot program among five selected leagues. After much research, they decided to focus first on newly retired women aged 50-65 as the most likely to join the League. However, they emphasized that many men also join the League. In fact, there now is a man on the national Board of Directors. It was emphasized that membership is everyone's job, not just the job of the membership chair. We all need to talk about the League to friends and acquaintances.

Probably the most valuable part of the experience was the chance to see in action many of the 25 staff members of the LWWUS office in Washington as well as many smart, vital, energetic women from all over the U.S. Our National League President, Mary Wilson, was especially impressive.

Among the important decisions made by the delegates was increasing our PMPs (per-member payments) from \$26.80 to \$28.00 for 2008-9 and from \$28.00 to \$29.20 in 2009-10. The in-

crease is needed because of rising operating costs due to inflation and decreasing revenues due to a gradual decline in membership.

In addition to electing new officers, the convention delegates adopted the program for the next two years, including a fast-track study of the National Popular Vote Compact (a consensus meeting on this topic will need to be held in January or February), an education and advocacy campaign to fight global climate change, and an education and advocacy campaign on health care reform. The League's position, adopted in 1993, favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. The League supports administration of the U.S. health care system by either a combination of the private and public sectors or a combination of federal, state, and/or regional government agencies.

On a more intimate note, while at the convention, we heard with pleasure that one of our Russian exchange guests in 2005 went back to St. Petersburg and wrote her doctoral thesis on what she learned about adoption and foster care in the Chicago area.

It was a most worthwhile and productive convention.

September 2008

Former LVW-LFLB President Embarks on Peace Corps Trip

LWV-LFLB member and past president Happie Taun-que Datt will be in Macedonia for 27 months as a Peace Corps volunteer.

The first seven volunteers in Macedonia arrived in June 1996 to teach English in secondary schools. Over the next three years, programs were added in business, environmental education, and municipal development. With political unrest in neighboring Kosovo, the

program was suspended in 1999 and again in 2001. The security situation has improved so much that Macedonia was approved for membership in NATO and the EU.

Happie will be staying with a Macedonian host family in Kumonovo (approximately 20 km from the Serbian border) for three months during training, which includes immersion in the Macedonian language and

culture. She will then be assigned to work in a smaller community advising and assisting in NGO/business/community development.

Happie will maintain a blog at www.happiedatt.blogspot.com. She can be reached by e-mail at happiedatt@gmail.com and by snail mail at Happie Taun-que Datt, c/o Miroven Korpus, Oslo 6, 1000 Skopje, Macedonia.

Adlai Stevenson Think Tank Debuts

This report was submitted by LWV-LFLB member Carol Gilbert.

Several League members attended the new Adlai Stevenson Center on Democracy's inaugural event, "A Grand Jollification," in August. Also in attendance were well-known political figures George McGovern, Jesse Jackson, Dick Lugar, John Anderson, and Ed Burke.

Bill Kurtis moderated the panel discussion, "The American National Nominating Process." When asked how to improve the process, Jesse Jackson immediately responded that the campaign season is too long and too costly and allows too much media influence. John Anderson added that the Iowa and New Hampshire results exert undue control. Sen. Lugar

suggested that the long primary period could be shortened. Spelling out his reform plan (at www.fairvote.org), Anderson said a goal should be "to preserve door-to-door retail politics." Ed Burke concurred, adding that the nominating conventions have no constitutional basis.

One audience questioner asked how to lessen the influence of "big money." McGovern suggested that all campaigns be funded. Jackson bluntly stated, "Stop selling ambassadorships ... where there is an ambassador to France, Germany, or Great Britain there is a campaign contributor." When asked about the efficacy of a single-day primary, McGovern preferred our current multiple primary dates, saying, "Candidates

are tested, and the smaller venues give opportunities for unknowns to compete." Jackson agreed, saying, "It's the third rail that makes the difference. We need change agents that are not locked into recycling same ideas, same candidates."

The Center intends to be nonpartisan and non-ideological; its goal is to address challenges to democracy and governmental accountability. As its first focus, the think tank will examine the media. The Center will be located at Adlai Stevenson's former home near Libertyville, restored with a grant from the state and now a property of the Lake County Forest Preserve District. For information, visit www.stevensoncenterondemocracy.org.

What Better Time to Roll Up Your Sleeves for Democracy?

The League needs your help to make democracy work in your community and across the country—and what better time than now to do your part through the nation's most trusted civic organization? JOIN US in registering voters, helping at voter education events, serving as an Election Day poll worker, and much, much more. Find out more by contacting Ann Grant.

"The Adlai Stevenson Center intends to be nonpartisan and nonideological; its goal is to address challenges to democracy and governmental accountability."





The League of Women Voters— Making Democracy Work®

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

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Lake Forest, IL 60044

E-mail: contact@lww-lfb.org

We're on the Web!
www.lww-lfb.org



Calendar of Events

- September 25 First day to request an absentee ballot
- September 27 Voter registration, Lake Forest Library, 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.
- September 28 Lake County Office Candidate Forum, 2:00 p.m., Warren Newport Public Library, Gurnee
- October 4 Voter registration, Lake Bluff Public Library, 11:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- October 5 Lake County Coalition Tea, 12:30 p.m., Country Squire Restaurant, Grayslake
58th District Candidate Forum, 2:00 p.m., Patty Turner Senior Center, Deerfield
- October 7 Con-Con with David Kohn followed by Presidential debates, 7:00 p.m., Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Senior Center
Last day to register to vote for the fall election
- October 10-11 Lake Michigan ILO Annual Meeting
- October 14 Early voting begins
- October 19 10th Congressional District Candidate Forum, 2:00 p.m., Deerfield High School
- October 30 Last day of early voting
- November 4 Election Day
- November 13 LWVIL Lobby Day, Springfield
- December 15 Holiday Luncheon, 10:00 a.m., Barbara Rinella, The Grille on Laurel, Lake Forest