



LEAGUE LINES

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

February 2008

Take Note:

- All members are welcome at board meetings: second Monday of the month, 12:30 p.m., Gorton Community Center. If you can't make it, read the minutes on the web! Visit us at www.lwv-lflb.org.
- Looking for information on how the presidential candidates respond to key issues of our day? The LWV Education Fund asked presidential candidates questions on the following topics and compiled the answers in an informative voters' guide.
 - Fossil Fuels
 - Iraq and the Middle East
 - Health Coverage
 - Campaign Spending Limits
 - Immigration

To see the responses, visit www.lwv.org and click on the blue words "Presidential Primary Voters' Guide."

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Welcome!

Happy New Year from the Board of the League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area! The Board is pleased to announce that our League is resuming the production of a local newsletter. We feel that our local League members and the community at large will be well served by this publication. We look forward to keeping you informed of our ongoing local civic education, pol-



ity discussion, and voter registration efforts, as well as League action at the state and national level.

Subsequent issues of this newsletter will be published in May and September. Members who wish to submit announcements or articles should send them to Bev Adamczyk at bev@adamczyk.com. Members who want to send short announcements to the membership list between newsletters should contact a Board member.

Local News

Voter Registration

Dodie Cook and Jo-An Sabonjian

In October, voter registration was held at Lake Forest High School, where 28 young voters were registered.

On January 5, 2008, voter registration took place at Lake Forest Library. Eleven registrations were completed in a two-hour period. About half of those registering were young, college-age citizens. One registrant was an older man, recently naturalized and born in India. There was excitement in the air, and several patrons walking by expressed their gratitude to the League for registering voters.

Our next voter registration will be at Lake Forest High School in the spring.

League of Conservation Voters Describes Green Initiatives

Carol Gilbert

Last fall, local League members met with Jake Braun, president of the Illinois League of Conservation Voters, to learn about ILCV's green initiatives. These range from large-scale efforts to redevelop brownfield areas to individual assistance in preserving rights to use solar panels in condos. The ILCV does not support nuclear energy, believing that other technologies can be brought forward. Mr. Braun believes that the current consumer climate favors alternative energy, noting that the Chicago area has a cluster of green tech companies specializing in solar and wind products. Current legislative initiatives include a

focus on reliable public transit, further development of biofuels, and ongoing support for green tax credits.

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions Foreign Affairs Discussion group meets on the second Friday of each month to discuss foreign policy issues. The next meeting is Friday, February 8 at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Betty Buker, 485 N. Oakwood, #A3, in Lake Forest. Briefing books from the Foreign Policy Association for 2008 are available and encouraged. The books include thoughtful and intellectual perspectives on the foreign policy topics under discussion. For more information about the briefing book (cost, \$25), please contact Pat Rounsaville at (847) 295-3916.

League Lines

Barbara Rinella's Annual Holiday Book Review a Delight

Elaine Slayton

Einstein: His Life and Universe

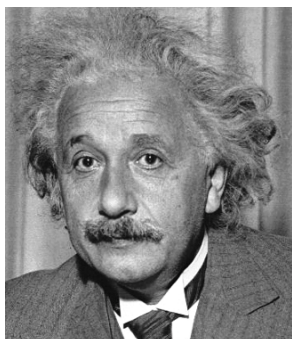
By Walter Isaacson

Only Barbara Rinella could make Albert Einstein, with his unruly gray hair and bushy mustache, appear downright human. Donning a T-shirt with the logo $E = MC^2$ under a conservative gray suit, Barbara set the stage to depict the genius with both humor and humanness. After all, we were about to hear about a daunting 675-page book that surely contained mind-boggling theories and formulas of physics from the man who discov-

ered the theory of relativity. I wondered how Barbara could make it interesting for those of us who are science and math "challenged."

With her signature energy and wit, Barbara revealed not only Einstein's intellectual discoveries but also his full and complicated personal life. The book follows these two threads and manages, as did Barbara, to explain his work in layman's terms. At times, Barbara switched hats (literally), personalities, and voices to become Mileva

Maric, Einstein's first, and apparently extremely unattractive, wife. She wove this sad but humorous fact within her description of the drier, more technical aspects of the story to illuminate Einstein as physicist, husband, father, and friend. A quote by Albert Einstein at the beginning of the biography perhaps sums up this complex man: "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving." [Note: In addition to enjoying League company and Barbara Rinella, LWV-LFLB earned \$284.52 on the Holiday Luncheon.]



2007 Lake Michigan Interleague Organization Annual Meeting Report

Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden

The Lake Michigan ILO (LMILO) annual meeting was held at the Illinois Beach State Park Lodge in Zion, Illinois, the weekend of October 5 and 6, 2007. This ILO of the LWVUS consists of 60 Leagues in the Lake Michigan Basin area, from the four states surrounding Lake Michigan. Its mission is to serve as a watchdog for public policy concerning Lake Michigan and to advocate for responsible laws regarding usage and access to Lake Michigan waters, both as a recreational entity and as a freshwater resource.

LMILO holds Board meetings several times a year in Chicago and also holds an annual meeting each October in one of the four member states. This year Illinois hosted the annual meeting. Participants were able to tour the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project in Wadsworth as

well as the North Shore Sanitary District's sludge recycling facility in Zion.

The positions of LMILO are based on the Natural Resource positions of the LWVUS, as they concern environmental issues affecting the Great Lakes Basin, an international border region. Since Lake Michigan is an integral part of the Great Lakes system, this year the LMILO voted to consider expanding the focus of the organization to include all the Great Lakes as its public policy focus, which would enable the organization to work in coalition with other like-minded organizations to educate the public and our legislators on the urgent situations concerning the Great Lakes.

Further business addressed at the Annual Meeting was covered in the following action items, which were voted on and approved by

the delegates in attendance:

- Water conservation
- Invasive species
- Passage of the Great Lakes restoration bills
- Support for the water quality agreement
- Reduction and monitoring of pesticide use

Carol Gilbert, Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden, and Jo-An Sabonjian from the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff LWV were in attendance.

Carol adds that the recommended reading from the weekend is *Great Lakes Water Wars for fascinating studies of water diversions from the Great Lakes.*

"LMILO's mission is to serve as a watchdog for public policy concerning Lake Michigan and to advocate for responsible laws on usage and access to Lake Michigan waters."



February 2008

LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing

Saturday, February 23, 2008

Every year in February, there is an opportunity to gather and hear intelligent and thoughtful updates on State issues and to attend workshops to energize our grass-roots efforts. This year the LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing is Saturday, February 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Loyola University's Water Tower Campus.

The morning is devoted to issues from 9:15 to noon:

- The Pros and Cons of Having a Constitutional Convention
- Updates on State Fiscal Policy
- Environmental Protection and Pollution Control
- The ShowUs Amendment

Lunch is from noon to 1:00 p.m.

There are afternoon workshops from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.:

- Education Funding
- Immigration
- Global Warming

Cost is \$45 (\$25 for continental breakfast and the morning session, \$30 for the lunch and workshop). Reservations are due February 11, 2008. For more information, visit www.lwvil.org or call (312) 939-5935.



Miss Belle Sherwin, President of the National League of Women Voters, holding silver loving cup to be awarded by the National League to the state League showing the greatest percentage in increase of vote of 1924 over 1920.

Climate Matters

Carol Gilbert

The multi-League-sponsored, four-day "Our Climate Matters" symposium in October featured many speakers, panels, and workshops. Recurrent themes included Kansas, CAFEs, carbon, and coal.

Kansas was a buzzword because the state has denied a permit for a new coal plant on the basis of its lack of a carbon emission reduction plan. Perhaps Illinois should take note—northern Illinois has six privately owned coal-burning plants and is a coal-fired energy exporter. We sell the energy and keep the pollution. The six Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota create 20% of the global warming gases in the US, and a whopping 5% of carbon emissions worldwide.

CAFE (corporate average fuel economy) was brought up by State Representative Karen May, who is a cosponsor of the Clean Car Act in Illinois; she says cars with better MPGs don't just save

fuel, they also improve health, reduce oil dependence, and will preserve vehicle choice if Detroit is directed to retool more aggressively. The EPA's CAFE standards are not as aggressive as California's. Rep. May reports buttons worn in California saying, "EPA get out of the way."

U.S. Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky spoke passionately about creating a new energy strategy, including action on industrial carbon taxes and "cap and trade" initiatives. Under "trading" initiatives, companies with excessive carbon emissions are allowed to buy credits from those that pollute less. The buyer is in effect fined for polluting, while the seller is rewarded for reduced emissions. The participants agree to a benchmark level of pollution that can never be exceeded in the future. (She also points out that career options in the sciences would "explode" with new clean energy legislation.)

Of special note to League members are the initiatives presented by the Environmental Law and Policy Center, a Midwest advocacy group and think tank. The Midwest region can be key to reducing U.S. pollution levels, but policy changes are needed to implement known effective technologies. Wind power could easily provide 25% of Illinois energy, better car technology is available, and high speed trains are doable, according to Howard Learner. ELPC's Faith Bugel says Illinois citizens should be aware that the Illinois Constitution's Article 11 guarantees the "right to a healthful environment." She says the good news is that the U.S.'s environmental problems are not the worst—China's are worse. And in our current global community, that's also the bad news.

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League Lines

Focus on Immigration

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“High priority should be given to U.S. employment needs, family reunification, humanitarian crises, rights of all workers to safe working conditions and a livable wage, and the rights of all individuals in the U.S. to fair treatment under the law.”

LWVUS Immigration Study

Carol Gilbert

Immigration is a hot election issue this year, but the LWVIL adopted a position on immigration at last year’s convention. Though far from national borders, Illinois is ranked sixth in the number of new legal immigrants annually, after California, New York, Florida, Texas, and New Jersey. The LWVIL study had its genesis in classic grassroots style, built on an earlier study by the Glen Ellyn League. Following that study, local Leagues around the state conducted their own inquiries and formed responses to State consensus issues. The final result was the adoption of an immigration position at the last LWVIL convention.

The LWVIL position is already being used for advocacy to influence public policy through lobbying and education. But much of immigration law, especially the law affecting 12 million undocumented immigrant residents, is federal law. Therefore, a national position is needed to lobby for reform at the federal level. LWVUS is seeking consensus.

Consensus responses and comments from local Leagues across the country will be used to craft wording for a future national position on immigration. Formulating the key points will require a balancing of local interests. After the responses from local Leagues across the nation are incorporated, the LWVUS Study Commit-

tee will present draft wording for a new national position at the LWVUS National Convention in Portland in June.

The process is not always easy, but as one member said during an immigration meeting, “They plan to stay, so we need to deal with it.”

LWV-LFLB Immigration Consensus Report

Jane Partridge, Immigration Study Chair

The LWV-LFLB Immigration Study Group has discussed and made our response to the LWVUS questions on immigration. We met in two sessions, totaling more than five hours. These meetings, which were announced ahead of time and were open to all members, were held on November 1 and December 6, 2007. Our results are to be sent to National by February 1, 2008, and will be used to develop a National position to be presented in Oregon in June.

The following is a summary of our League’s results. To see the complete survey with our answers, visit the LWV-LFLB website at www.lwv-lflb.org. The complete report is also available in print for anyone without access to the web; contact Jane Partridge at (847) 234-1247.

Regarding federal immigration legislation, our League feels that high priority should be given to considerations of economic, business, and service employment needs in the U.S., family reunification and the rights of families to

stay together, history of criminal activity, humanitarian crises and political persecutions, rights of all workers to safe working conditions and a livable wage, and the rights of all individuals in the U.S. to fair treatment under the law. Federal oversight and responsibility are needed for determining the status of immigrants (both documented and undocumented) and carrying out necessary action (such as deportation of felons).

Issues that should be given less weight in determining federal legislation include ethnic and cultural diversity, immigrant characteristics, and education and training. Our local group acknowledges that there is no system in place at present to deal with the health and age of immigrants, but that setting policy should have high priority.

The LWV-LFLB study group would refrain from punitive treatment of unauthorized immigrants, such as blanket deportation and fines. The study group feels that high priority should be given to some immigrants being allowed to earn legal adjustment of their status (while others are deported) based on the length of residence in the U.S. and that all immigrants should be allowed to earn an adjustment to their status by doing things such as paying taxes, learning English, studying civics, etc. The study group gives a low priority to earning legal adjustment based on the needs of U.S. employers.

The study group concluded that federal immigration law should

provide an efficient, expeditious system for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are joining immediate family members already admitted for legal permanent residence in the U.S., who are entering the U.S. to meet labor needs, and who are entering the U.S. because of persecution in their home country. There is less urgency to provide legal entry for those entering the U.S. as students. More legal points of entry may be needed.

The group feels that federal immigration law should not include a national identification card with secure identifiers for *all* persons residing in the U.S. due to the limits on individual security, personal privacy, and expense.

To enforce federal immigration law, the group feels high priority should be given to increased personnel at entry points; more effective tracking of persons with non-immigrant visas; verification documents, such as green cards and work permits; improved technology to facilitate verification of employee visa status and sharing information among federal agencies; a program to allow immigrant

workers to go in and out of the U.S. to meet seasonal labor needs; and significant fines for employers who fail to take adequate steps to verify work authorization of employees. The group does not support the use of physical barriers and surveillance of borders.

The group reached consensus that federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations. Consensus was also reached that federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to proactively help improve economics, education, and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations. Finally, the group believes more transparency is needed in immigration policy so that immigrants are not living "in the shadows."

Are You "Smarter" Than an Immigrant?

Tracy Burns

I was among the League members meeting in the cozy confines of

Carol Gilbert's dining room discussing immigration policy. During a lively discussion about the requirements of someone seeking U.S. citizenship, we asked ourselves, how much do we know about the country we call home?

I went home and perused the Internet. On the MSNBC site I found this information:

Currently a resident alien seeking citizenship must pass a test, commonly known as INS form N-200 "Petition for Naturalization." The test is conducted orally. The examiner may choose from 100 questions.

There was also a sample of the N-200 test. I took it and received a score of 90% - a couple of answers were lucky guesses. Now it's your turn. Go to www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13442226/ and take the test. Then ask yourself, "Am I 'smarter' than an immigrant?"

Extensive documentation of federal immigration issues is available on the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org. Click on "Follow our Study and Get Educated" to find study briefs and background papers for downloading.



"More transparency is needed in immigration policy so that immigrants are not living 'in the shadows.'"

LWV-LFLB Board Members

Linda Bartmes	LWV Lake County Liaison
Dodie Cook	Voter Registration
Happie Taunque Datt	Past President
Ann Grant	Assistant Treasurer
Judy Grisamore	Voter Services
Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden	LMILO Liaison
Cindy Morehead	Treasurer
Jane Partridge	Immigration/Affordable Housing
Marilyn Shineflug	Secretary

Off- Board Positions

Webmaster:

Nicki Snoblin

Newsletter Staff:

Bev Adamczyk and Nicki Snoblin



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League of Women Voters of
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400 East Illinois Road
Lake Forest, IL 60044

E-mail: contact@lww-lfjb.org

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

Primary Election Information - Election Day Is Tuesday, February 5

Early Voting: January 14 through January 31

In-Person Absentee Voting: February 1 through February 4

Election Day: Tuesday, February 5 - polls are open 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For most voters in Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and unincorporated Shields Township, early voting and in-person absentee voting are at Lake Forest City Hall, 220 E. Deerpath, Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

To confirm your early voting location or polling place, or to see your sample ballot, go to www.lww-lfjb.org, click on "Voter Information," and follow the link to "Lake County Clerk."

Calendar of Events



- February 5 Primary Election
- 8 Great Decisions, 1:00 p.m., Betty Buker's, 485 N. Oakwood, #A3, LF
- 11 LWV LF/LB Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Gorton Community Center
- 23 LWWIL Annual Issues Briefing, 8:30-3:00, Loyola, Water Tower
- March 10 LWV LF/LB Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Gorton Community Center
- 14 Great Decisions, 1:00 p.m., Betty Buker's, 485 N. Oakwood, #A3, LF
- April 11 Great Decisions, 1:00 p.m., Betty Buker's, 485 N. Oakwood, #A3, LF
- 14 LWV LF/LB Board Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Gorton Community Center
- June 13-17 National Convention in Portland, Oregon