



LEAGUE LINES

FALL 2014

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Common Core and Conversation

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Many parents and grandparents are worried about how the Common Core standards will change the curriculum in public schools. Will they still teach to the high standards we expect? Will local schools rather than the federal government still control curriculum design? The answer given to both questions was "Yes" and "Yes."

Common Core evolved from a 2007 meeting of the National Governors Association and an association of state school officials. It was a response to problems with the "No Child Left Behind Act." Adoption of the standards is voluntary at the state and local level.

An audience of 48 heard Lauren Fagan, District 115 Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology; and Dr. Kevin Rubenstein, District 67 Director of Curriculum, explain how the standards are being implemented in reading and math. Soon to follow will be standards in social science, physical science, etc. The



Ms. Fagan, Dr. Rubenstein

ISAT will be phased out as testing of the common core is phased in. Skills will be covered more in depth rather than more skills more superficially.

Before getting serious, we enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres provided by Fresh Market and the Guscott-Muellers. It was great to reconnect with League members after the summer and meet prospective members. Thanks to Linda Bartmes and Wyn Cain for coordinating it all.



For more information: A 2011 study of Common Core can be found at the LWV-US site, lww.org. The Southern Poverty Law Center has an excellent 2014 study titled *Public Schools in the Crosshairs (Far-Right Propaganda and the Common Core State Standards)* on their site, www.splcenter.org.



To Fall

Soon frost upon the pumpkin
And kids who trick and treat,
Comes then old cold November-
Wool socks to warm my feet
While walking to the ballot box
To vote my chosen sheet;
Now gone the din of robo-calls
Now silence, Oh how sweet!

Carrie Chapman Catt Award

Nominations are invited for the *Carrie Chapman Catt Local Leadership Award*, to be given at the Holiday Luncheon. Each year we honor a member for her outstanding leadership and significant action in promoting the League's mission. The nominee's efforts should benefit Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area residents



by promoting awareness of public issues and wider participation in the democratic process. The award is named in honor of the prominent suffragist and national League founder. Members may submit nominations to the Board by Nov. 1. Members of the Board are not eligible to receive the award.

Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear League Members:

What a September we had! A candidate debate, a program, a fall kick-off with a program, three voter registration events, and a board meeting. These were highs; the low was the cancellation of our Congressional debate because our congressman was not available.

Now we are planning our December 4th Holiday Luncheon. It will feature Barry Bradford's program on "Women Who Have Run for President." What an experience that would be!

We'll gather at The Grille on Laurel at 10:30 a.m. with the program beginning at 11:00 and have lunch afterward.

Look for an invitation in the mail, and save the date because we hope for a large turnout.

Let's have a large voter turnout on Nov. 4. Much is at stake in Lake County, Springfield and Washington.

—Liz and Wyn

Constitutional and Legislative Ballot Issues

The November 4 ballot will ask voters two constitutional questions which will become law if voters approve them.

The first proposed amendment, "**Right to Vote**," would prohibit voter discrimination and is aimed at preventing such possibilities as requiring photo identification to vote. The League supports this measure.

The second proposed amendment, "**Crime Victims' Bill of Rights**," would give crime victims several rights: to be notified of all court proceedings involving their alleged offenders; to be heard in court on any post-arraignment release decision, plea or sentencing; to have their safety considered in determining bail and release of a defendant; and finally to testify on any request for personal records of the defendant.

However, many believe the constitution provides adequate protection as written and that it is not clear how the proposed

amendment would affect due process. The League has not taken a position on this measure.

There are also three advisory questions which would require legislative passage. The League supports two and has not taken a position on the third.

1. Minimum Wage— Proposes raising the Illinois minimum wage from \$8.25 to \$10.00 per hour. The current minimum provides an annual salary below the Federal Poverty Level for a family of three. The League supports this proposal.

2. Women's Health— Proposes requiring health insurance plans which provide prescription drug coverage to cover prescription birth control. The League strongly supports this proposal, believing in the right of women to make reproductive health choices.

3. Tax for Education (aka the Mil-

lionaire's Tax)— An additional 3% tax would be levied on individual incomes over \$1,000,000 with the proceeds earmarked for education. The League has not taken a position on this proposal.

The need to provide adequate funding for education is recognized, but past actions of the State Legislature do not inspire confidence that additional tax income would be used for that purpose. Also, the language specifying income level and rate imposes limiting restrictions which could affect future needs. The League strongly supports a graduated rate income tax as a solution.

The state League site, www.lwvil.org, has voter guides together with position statements and background information. Another helpful site is Vote411, which provides information based on a voters home address. This LWVUS site, www.vote411.org, is an excellent resource for providing answers to voting questions.

Welcome New Members, Current Members Renew!

Welcome to our new members: **Dave Cain, Helen Potsic, Barbara Hetler, Bonnie McNeill and Kira Alvarez**. We hope you will find our program and mission worthwhile and worthy of your energy and effort!

Our ability to organize programs and debates, to interview legislators, register voters, and respond to calls for action from the state and national Leagues depends on our members. There is strength in numbers! New members, including men (we now have six), are

always welcome and important to our League. Since members are our best recruiters, tell your friends and family members how meaningful and enjoyable League participation is. Your continued participation is important. Be sure to renew your membership now!

When Women Succeed...

The *Lake County News-Sun* and the *Lake Forester* recently printed the following letter from League member Stephanie Victor. It deserves reprinting!

Vote for equal pay

Over 85 years after gaining the right to vote, women still face staggering wage discrimination in the workplace, making 77 cents to every \$1 a man makes for the same work. In 1996, as one of only two female engineers working for the Midwest's largest engineering firm, I discovered I was making 15 percent less than the guy next to me. He had a technical certificate from a community college, only did office retrofits, and never wore a suit. I guess the rationale was, he did have a family to feed while I had a

husband.

Pay equity is more important than ever. Many of us live in two, working-parent homes or have daughters who do. At a time when our families are being squeezed and when every dollar matters, why do women not deserve the same rights as men in the workplace when we contribute to our households just the same?

In April, our own Sen. Mark Kirk voted to block debate on the Paycheck Fairness Act and House Republicans won't even bring it up for a vote. Bob Dold, who is running for Congress in the 10th District, voted seven times against women. While we may not yet have equality



Stephanie Victor with Nancy Pelosi at a Fair Pay rally

at the workplace, we do have equality in the ballot box and should be exercising that right come November. I encourage everyone to either vote by mail, early vote or come out on Election Day. When women succeed, America succeeds!

-Stephanie A. Victor
Lake Forest

September 28 Candidate Forum Report

The Candidate Forum Committee, comprised of representatives of the Leagues of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, Highland Park/Highwood, Deerfield and Glencoe, organized a Candidates' Forum held at Dickinson Hall in Lake Forest on Sunday, September 28, 2014. Candidates for Lake County offices and the 58th Illinois House District participated.

An interested audience of approximately 100 attended the presentations of

candidates for State Representative, County Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer and Regional Superintendent of Schools. Lali Watt, a member of the Wilmette League, moderated the forum and asked questions submitted by the audience.

Lake Forest TV recorded the event for future broadcast. Lake Forest Bank and American Legion of Highland Park co-sponsored this event. Google "Lake

Forest TV" for broadcast times.

The Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Candidate Forum Committee plans to schedule similar forums prior to the April 2015 Consolidated Elections. These will provide venues for local citizens to become educated voters about candidates seeking local public offices for contested school board, municipal and park district offices.

-Terry Desmond

10th Congressional District Candidates

Four local Leagues tried to provide 10th District voters with a chance to meet their congressional candidates in a forum. We believe that voters can make more informed decisions when they are given the opportunity to both see the candidates in person and hear the candidates as they respond to questions

from the audience.

Instead, Congressman Brad Schneider and former Congressman Robert Dold participated in a televised debate sponsored by the LWVIL and ABC7 (WLS). It was taped on October 18 at the ABC7 studios for broadcast on October 19.

This is the matchup that four local Leagues tried unsuccessfully to hold at Deerfield High School before 10th District voters. A few 10th District League volunteers were invited to staff the debate. Among those attending were Jo-An Sabonjian, Diane Sanderson, Wyn and Liz. (*See picture on p. 7*)

LWVIL State of the State – 2014

The Role of the Media in 21st Century American Democracy was the program for the League of Women Voters of Illinois State of the State luncheon held Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at the Union League Club of Chicago. Our League members (Wyn Cain, Joy Guscott-Mueller, Cindy Morehead, Steve and Helen Potsic) joined other League members and guests to socialize and participate in the panel discussion.

The panel discussion was moderated by David Kohn, Executive Director of Public Affairs at the Union League Club of Chicago. The panelists were Randi Belisomo, General Assignment Reporter with WGN-TV; Kristen McQueary with the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board; and Amanda Vinicky, Statehouse



David Kohn, Randi Belisomo, Kristen McQueary, and Amanda Vinicky

Bureau Chief of WUIS Radio.

This annual event celebrates the League's accomplishments. Proceeds from the luncheon support the Education Fund and its mission of civic edu-

cation and voter service. Our League won a free ad in the event program because Mary turned in our annual report on time.

-Wyn Cain

Stormwater From The Ground Up

The final program on stormwater was presented September 14th at the Joint Action Water Agency (water plant) in Lake Bluff. It was funded by an Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources grant to the League of Women Voters of Illinois. About 40 attendees heard Larry McCot-



ter of Lake Bluff Open Lands Association; Sandy Hart, Stormwater Management Commission; Bill Soucie of JAWA; and Krista Grimm of the League of Women Voters. They covered what causes flooding and beach closure, and what gray and green infrastructure are. We heard about the negative effects of pollution on wildlife and water. We learned how rain barrels collect water for later use on lawns, how permeable pavement

channels water into the ground, and how even commercial car washes use less water than owner-washing because wastewater is recycled.

Then we toured the water plant. It was amazing how many treatment tanks process the water before it is safe for drinking, and how automated the process is. All this for tap water we take for granted! Thanks to Carol Russ for organizing this event.

LWVIL Actions

Our state partner opposes a school voucher program which would give public funds to private schools. State League President Mary Kubasak's letter to the *Chicago Tribune* affirms the position that "...public schools, while not perfect, are the vehicles that best provide the education that our children

need to become contributing citizens."

Other positions include opposition to term limits, support for efforts to relieve climate change, addressing stormwater damage, protection of voting rights, support for EPA hearings on carbon pollution and the use of on-line voter

registration.

The League is co-sponsoring candidate debates for the 10th Congressional district (ours), the 11th Congressional district, the governor and the US Senate. Details of these events are posted on the LWVIL website (www.lwvil.org).

LWV-Lake County Report



Lake county candidates appeared at an October 8 candidate forum at the Round Lake Beach Cultural and Civic Center. It was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lake County, Round Lake Area Library, Mano a Mano, WRLR 98.3 FM, and the Round Lake Area Exchange Club.

Questions to candidates were submitted by members of the audience and collected by League members, and read by moderator Gilda Karu of Arlington Heights. Mano a Mano had invited new citizens who had taken classes at their facility. They also provided Spanish language translation services. The forum was broadcast live on WRLR and tele-

vised by Comcast for rebroadcast at various times before the election.

The moderator was chosen from outside the 10th Congressional

District in consideration of invitations issued federal candidates for office. Unfortunately, since agreements were not obtained from both candidates, Lake County voters were unable to see and ask questions of them in a “live” setting.

-Diane Sanderson



Money In Politics

The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform presented a program on campaign finance, and Jean Brown, Liz and Wyn attended. Campaign Chairperson Susan Garrett introduced the panel: Don



Prof. Gaines, Mary Schaafsma

Rose, political consultant; Brian Gaines, Professor, U of I, Champaign; Mary Schaafsma, Executive Director, LWV Illinois; and Wayne Steger, Professor of

Political Science, DePaul University. The moderator was Dick Simpson, Professor, U of I, Chicago.

Following the Supreme Court Citizens United

decision, which allowed more money to flow into campaigns without disclosure, television ads have become a “monster” according to the panel. Former State

Representative Lauren Beth Gash stated that even legislators who favor public financing of campaigns have to accept contributions from political leaders and PAC’s until the system is changed since they need this money to win.

Redistricting reform would help, but citizen initiatives are not allowed under the Illinois Constitution and state legislators are unwilling to pass a constitutional amendment. The best hope seems to be a grassroots campaign for a small donor matching system.

Voter Registration

The Newcomers’ fall luncheon on September 18th at Conway Farms Golf Club was a great place for League to register voters. Thanks to advance publicity, one guest brought her documents and enthusiastically signed up. Another already-registered voter indicated in-

terest in joining League; so, we were glad to spread our message. September 23rd was National Voter Registration Day, and Stephanie Victor and Kitty Lansing registered commuters from 6-8 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. at the West Lake Forest train station (East Lake Forest’s

station was under renovation and unavailable). Now we need all registered voters to vote! Stephanie’s Letter to the Editor of the *Lake Forester* (see page 3) reminded us that we’ll get equal pay for women only if women vote for candidates who support it.

Ooodles of Noodles!

Pad Thai, Pesto Cavatappi, Bangkok Curry...twenty-eight League members and their guests enjoyed them during the first week of September at Noodles & Company, a casual restaurant in Lake Bluff offering international and Amer-

ican noodle dishes. Sandwiches and salads were also available.

Eleven Board members sold \$10 coupons for an entrée and drink at the new restaurant off Waukegan Road and 176. In addition, online orders at Noodles.com were available. What a great way to add over a thousand dollars to our treasury!

The fundraiser will



help pay for candidate forums, room rentals and speakers for programs open to the public. Please try out Noodles & Company and thank them for their generous donation to the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff League.

Thanks to the members who contributed to our cause by purchasing coupons!

-Ann Grant



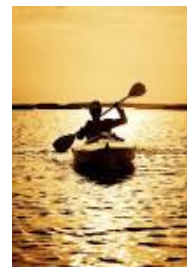
LWV Lake Michigan Region Update

LWV Lake Michigan Region held its annual business meeting October 3rd-5th. Gifted speakers discussed biome shifts at Sleeping Bear Dunes, the health of Lake Michigan's fisheries, and the effects of recent weather trends on the region. This year's convocation was held in downtown Traverse City, foot-

steps from Grand Traverse Bay. Field trips to the Inland Seas Education Center and paddling on the Boardman River were real crowd-pleasers. LWVLMR's Annual Meeting is always crisply brief; President Hank Saunders and Secretary Cheryl Chapman graciously accepted new terms. The four US states

(Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois) that border Lake Michigan take turns hosting the annual conference. Illinois will organize and host next year's event.

-Carol Russ



Assault Weapons Press Release

A federal court upheld Highland Park's ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and we commented publicly to the media:

"The League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area was gratified to read that a US District Court found Highland Park's ordinance banning assault weapons and high capacity maga-

zines does not violate the Second Amendment and can be enforced. The League testified, along with many other residents, before the Lake Forest City Council in the summer of 2013 urging such a ban here but was unsuccessful. The Lake Bluff Village Board similarly took no action. The League agrees with the federal judge who found that such weapons have 'the decidedly offensive

purpose of quickly acquiring multiple targets and firing at those targets.' We believe assault weapons are for military use only and have no self-protection purpose in Lake Forest or Lake Bluff. State legislation now forbids enacting a ban. The City Council and the Village Board should have banned assault weapons and high capacity magazines while the window was open."

PLEASE Renew your membership NOW
We want to see YOUR NAME in the directory!

Sorry for shouting, but it's really important!

Technology Is Here To Help Us

Up-to-date and historical information about our League's activities is on our webpage www.lww-lflb.org. There are videos of current and past candidate debates and our programs. If there is a change in a current activity, it will be posted on the webpage.

If you have a Facebook page and have not "liked" us yet, please do so and fol-

low our postings. We post information about our League's activities, along with those of LWVIL, LWVUS, and some of our allied organizations. There is ongoing information about our focus issues. Please "like" and "share" any of our posts with your friends. Leave a "comment" if you like.

If you don't have a Facebook page, you

can see our page by going to our website www.lww-lflb.org. On the left-hand side of the page, you will see a column with "Find us on Facebook" at the top. It looks like this: Click on our League name and you will see our Facebook page!



Pictures!



League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area

Still Going Strong Since 1926!



contact@LWV-LFLB.org
www.LWV-LFLB.org

Calendar

Oct. 20, Check for Location
Early Voting Begins

Tuesday Nov. 4, At Your Precinct
Vote!

November Program TBA
Watch for announcement!

Thursday Dec. 4, The Grille on Laurel
Holiday Luncheon

Feb. 14, 2015
LWV 95th Birthday

March 7, 2015
LWVIL Issues Briefing

March, 2015
Women's History Month

“The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.”

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