



# LEAGUE LINES

SUMMER 2014

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

### A Message from the Co-Presidents

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**Liz**

Dear League members,

We are off to a running start on the 2014-15 League year. Your co-presidents are excited about the definite plans and the possibilities for programs and membership events. We hope you will join us when travel doesn't conflict. The League can make a big impact on public officials and the general public because of the solid reputation we have for study and consensus behind our positions on issues.

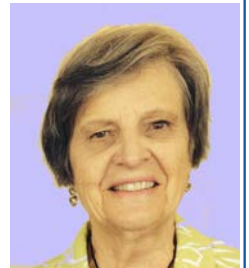
We need to make a special effort on membership recruitment this year. We ask each member to find at least one new member - somebody who seems to care about government, and who is open to information be-



fore reaching conclusions. We don't all agree on issues, but we agree on the process of majority rule and protection of minority rights.

Programmatically, we will focus on the issues adopted at our annual meeting: health care defense, gun violence prevention, fiscal policy and tax reform, and money in politics. We ask you to serve on committees to plan programs that you care most about. We need everybody's contacts to find the most informative speakers.

Soon you will be asked to renew your membership for July 2014-2015. Please help us to continue our vital efforts to educate and advocate so that democracy works.



**Wyn**

*-Wyn Cain and Liz Bradner  
Co-Presidents*

### Board Training Completed

Now we know what we're doing! The board was trained by former LWVIL president Paula Lawson on July 16th. New board members were brought up to speed on board responsibilities, program planning, non-partisan policy, etc.

Subsequently outgoing co-president Mary Mathews met with co-presidents Wyn Cain and Liz Bradner, as well as portfolio holders Jean Brown and Carol Gayle on programs, Judy Grisamore on publicity, Marilyn Turchi on membership, and Linda Bartmes on hospitality. The turn-over was complete. We will speak with one voice for the League, although

of course individual members except the co-presidents and voter service chair may express any personal opinions publicly.



**L. to R.: Ann Grant, Carol Gayle, Joy Guscott-Mueller and Jean Brown**



**Summer Forecast**  
voters, your open eyes will see clearly as the League lights the issues of the day. Rain will not spoil our picnic!

## Stormwater Programs



**Program presenters Sarah Surroz, Krista Grimm, and Curt Volkman**

Our Lake Forest stormwater program, “Rain, Rain, Go Some Other Way” on

June 30 featured Conserve Lake County Conservation Director Sarah Sirroz, LWVIL water resources director Krista Grimm and the chair of Lake Forest Collaborative for Environmental Leadership Kurt Volkman.

The 30 attendees heard how rains are more frequent and heavy lately due to climate change. They cause increased stormwater runoff (rather than absorption into the ground) which carries pollutants into Lake Michigan and the Gulf of

Mexico and causes flooded basements and other property damage.

Suggestions to reduce these problems included green roofs, reduced use of pesticides and fertilizer, aeration of lawns to increase absorption, rain gardens, cisterns to collect rainwater for later use, and paving with permeable pavers.

The Lake Bluff stormwater program “Stormwater from the Ground Up” is set for September 14. It is described in the following article.

## LWV Lake Bluff Stormwater Program

We love and need rain, but sometimes it can cause problems: erosion, flooding, water pollution, unstable ravines, and beach closures.

- Why do we experience floods?
- What is gray infrastructure?
- What is green infrastructure?

Find out September 14th: Take a water plant tour and win a rain barrel!

Some solutions can be implemented by individuals, like rain gardens in your yard. When stormwater runoff overwhelms our sewers, flooding yards and streets, it's a personal concern for individuals. Some solutions are tools for healthy communities, such as bioswales near roadways. Pesticides, fertilizers,



and road chemicals flow into our drainage systems and ravines, then right into Lake Michigan, and that's a problem for everyone.

What can we do? Learn from Sandy Hart, Lake County Board and Stormwater Commission, Larry McCotter of

Lake Bluff Open Lands, and Melissa Olenick and Bill Soucie of the Joint Action Water Agency in Lake Bluff. 2 p.m. Sunday September 14th at JAWA, 200 Rockland Road, Lake Bluff (next to Mariani). Tour space is limited! RSVP to [crviolin@comcast.net](mailto:crviolin@comcast.net) to reserve your place.

## LWV-LF/LB Kick-off Event: Common Core & Conversation

The kick-off of our League year will be a social on Saturday September 20. After a glass of wine and a canapé, we'll hear about the new Common Core standards for education, why they are both passionately supported and opposed and how they affect our Lake

Forest and Lake Bluff schools.

The discussion will be led by Lake Forest Superintendent Michael Simeck and a representative of Lake Bluff District 65. Location to be announced; time is 4-6 p.m.



## Candidate Forums Planned

It's that time of year again, when the postal person groans and commercials tout or tarnish people rather than products. As always, the League hopes to clear the air and enlighten voters by bringing opposing sides together in candidate forums.

Terry Desmond, Ann Grant and representatives of the Deerfield and Highland

Park Leagues are organizing two debates. At 1 p.m. on September 28, at Dickinson Hall, Carla Wyckoff and Janet Kilkelly will square off in the Lake County Clerk race and Mark Curran and Jason Patt will discuss the County Sheriff race. David Stolman and Glen Ryback will debate for County Treasurer. Roycealee Wood, who is unopposed running for Regional Superintendent of

Schools, will also speak.

On October 5 at 1 p.m. at Deerfield High School, Scott Drury and Mark Neerhof will debate their candidacies for 58th District Illinois House. Then Brad Schneider and Robert Dold will present their qualifications for the 10th Congressional District seat.

Both debates promise to be both exciting and informative. We will prepare Voters Guides to show the candidates' positions on major issues. Volunteers are needed for greeting candidates, reviewing audience questions, ushering, registering attendees, etc. Contact Voter Service V.P. Terry Desmond at 847-638-1428 to volunteer.

Dickinson Hall is located at 100 East Old Mill Road in Lake Forest. Deerfield High School's address is 1959 Waukegan Road in Deerfield.



## Farewell, Phyllis!

Can we spare former president (1990-94) Phyllis Albrecht who is moving to the Washington D.C. area? Such a hard-working supporter of the League will be greatly missed and we told her so at a lovely luncheon at Diane Lloyd's home on June 26. About 30 members attended.

Phyllis was the first recipient of the Carrie Chapman Catt Local Leadership

Award which recognizes outstanding leadership in promoting the League's mission.

Phyllis will also be missed in the Village of Lake Bluff, where she gave many hours of service to the community and was the first woman president of the Board of Trustees.

It was great to have Diane in town from

New York for the summer and we are grateful that she was willing to host the event!

Shake them up in D.C. and Keep in touch, Phyllis!



**Phyllis Albrecht**

## Thank You Jane and Mary!

We owe a big thank you to the outgoing board, especially Co-presidents Jane Partridge and Mary Mathews.

Under their leadership and management we had a full, productive year. They

kept us focused on our Program ("capitol-P program") issues, including health care, gun violence, and campaign finance. They grew our membership, which is a significant achievement in today's busy society.

They also kept us organized with four membership meetings. Their humor and gentle prodding made League events fun! The new board is counting on their support this coming year.



## LWV-LF/LB Annual Meeting

Kitty Cole graciously hosted our annual meeting at her home June 12th. The time was used both to assess the past year's activities and to organize for the current year.

We approved our program action items to include:

- Health Care Defense
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Fiscal Policy and Tax Reform
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Climate Change/Water Resources/Clean Air Defense.

The treasurer's report was accepted and the proposed budget of \$9,088 for the operating fund and \$2,910 in the education fund was adopted.

Finally we elected the following as officers:

Co-presidents: Wyn Cain and Liz Bradner

VP Membership: Marilyn Turchi

Co-VP Program: Jean Brown and Carol Gayle

VP Voter Service: Terry Desmond

Treasurer: Steve Potsic

Secretary: Joy Guscott-Mueller

Director Hospitality: Linda Bartmes

LWV-Lake County Liaison: Kathleen Conlon-Wasik

Communications/Publicity: Judy Grisamore

Directors at Large: Ann Grant, Jane Partridge and Cindy Morehead

We're looking forward to a productive and successful year!



*Members study issues at the annual meeting*

## "Know Your Government" Award Winners Recognized

Three eighth-graders who attend Deerpath Middle School were the recipients of the League's "Know Your Government" award for 2014.

Megan Szostak, James



Burkhardt and Jason Smith performed so well on the federal and state constitution tests that their names were engraved on a permanent plaque at the school in addition to receiving a certificate of achievement.

Carol Russ, past president of the League, presented the awards at the Honors Assembly on May 28th. The community should be very proud of these students who have shown that knowing how government works is the first step to making it work better.

## Illinois State Income Tax Position

The League-supported graduated income tax failed in the spring Illinois legislative session. Recognizing the need for additional revenue to prevent a large

increase in the state's debt when the income tax rate falls to 3.75% in January, the state League now supports the extension of the 5% income tax. Illinois'

fiscal issues are well-known and have been widely publicized. We are planning a program focusing on the state tax situation later this fall.

## Lake Forest Day Parade!

We are riding in Steve Sackley's red convertible in the Lake Forest Days parade August 6. Waving and greeting will be Bev Nelson, Wyn Cain, Liz Bradner and

whoever else we can pack into the car. It has always been a kick to pretend to be a celebrity, when we are actually hard-working advocates of serious issues. It is

an effective way to promote our LWV-LF/LB League!



**New Members are always welcome— invite someone today!**

## LWV-Lake County Report

We who are members of LWV-Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, are also members of a wider community: LWV-Lake County, LWV Lake Michigan Region, LWVIL and LWVUS. Did you know your dues included membership in such a broad area?

The LWV-Lake County Board generally meets on the second Wednesday of each month. It considers a county-wide scope and a

broad spectrum of issues affecting the county. At the annual meeting on June 11 at Linda Bartmes' home, representatives attended from Leagues in the Deer-

field Area, Highland Park/Highwood, and Lake Forest/Lake Bluff.

The Lake County League cooperates with other community groups as well.



**Diane Sanderson, Linda Bartmes, Jane Partridge at the LWV-Lake County Annual Meeting**

Some programs and issues were the "Anatomy of a Wrongful Conviction of a Woman," the Waukegan coal plant, Waukegan Harbor, more on stormwater

management, transportation and land management, and the Equal Rights Amendment. The LWVLC also is a partner with the Lake County Women's Coalition where Mary Mathews was among those honored in May. The theme was Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment. LWVLC has had an observer at the Lake County Board of Commissioners; they know we are attending! Observers perform a valuable service.

If anyone would like to attend a Lake County board meeting, please contact the liaison from Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, Kathleen Conlon-Wasik.

## Yes, For Independent Maps Update

Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area League members circulated petitions to put a politically independent process for drawing state legislative districts on the November ballot. Over 500,000 signatures were obtained statewide. Judge Mary Mikva ruled that the petitions did not qualify to put the measure on the ballot but she gave guidelines for a fu-

ture initiative effort that could survive litigation.

In contrast, a Florida court ruled that the congressional map drawn by its legislature violates the Florida constitution as amended by citizen initiative. The Florida League of Women Voters was the lead plaintiff and the driving

force behind passage of the initiative. A new, fairer map will be drawn, although whether it will be completed in time for the 2014 elections is uncertain.

Florida's redistricting success has provided encouragement to all those still working for independent maps in Illinois!

## Membership and Leadership Development Training

The state League sponsored an excellent training session on July 11 in Aurora. It was attended by Wyn Cain, co-president, and Judy Grisamore, publicity chairman. It provided techniques for increasing visibility of the League, growing the skills of emerging leaders,

and empowering citizens to exercise their voices in politics. Wyn and Judy met with our League's State Coach, Karen Telser from Evanston, who will be available to assist our Membership Committee when needed. We'll benefit from their "best practices."



## Oodles of Noodles!

We are grateful to Noodles and Co. in Lake Bluff for donating 100 coupons, each good for an individual dinner at their popular Lake Bluff restaurant. The coupons must be redeemed between August 31 and September 7, so you have time to plan your outing.

We can sell the coupons and keep the entire proceeds. Selling all 100 tickets at



\$10 each would add \$1000 to our treasury! Thank you Noodles!

This would be a fine opportunity to

take your family or friends out for a delicious, yet inexpensive, dinner. The restaurant is located at the southeast corner of highways 43 and 176, next to Panera. Coupons can be purchased from Liz Bradner (847)234-1612 or Ann Grant (847)234-2782.

Please ask Liz or Ann for more information when you call.

## Sisters Across the Straits: Cuban Travel Opportunity!

Seize the opportunity to visit Cuba and learn about this island nation and its relation with the United States, a place beloved for centuries by explorers, pirates and artists, which for over half a century has been forbidden to visit.

This year the League of Women Voters of Florida, Education Fund will sponsor several trips to Cuba as part of SISTERS ACROSS THE STRAITS, a project designed to provide League members with a unique opportunity to learn about the nation's history, culture

and developing political scene. The six-day trip offers delegation members with ways to engage in people-to-people interactions with women at different social and economic levels, academics at the University of Havana, civic organizations and members of the Federation of Cuban Women.

The Florida League website has detailed information about the trips, including requirements, limitations, what to expect and, of course, costs. Even if you don't plan on going, the web

site is very interesting!

<http://www.thefloridavoter.org/events/sisters-across-the-straits>



## Splash! Another Travel Opportunity... Go Kayaking in Michigan?

*Splash!* The July 2014 newsletter of the LWV-Lake Michigan Region announces that they will hold their annual meeting on October 3-5 in Traverse City, Michigan. From the description provided below, it promises to be both educational and entertaining.

The Michigan LWVLMR Delegates have chosen "Climate Change and Biodiversity for Lake Michigan" as this year's theme. The presentations, many of which will be available on our website, will touch on trends, food webs, conservancy, water studies, advocacy,

Sleeping Bear Dunes and the Boardman River.

Field trips include the Dunes, a kayak/paddle trip, and the inland seas museum. The dates are October 3, 4, and 5. All LWV members and friends are invited to attend! Additional information and a downloadable registration form are available through our website: <http://www.lwvlmr.org/>

LWV members: If you need help finding a roommate to share the expense of a room, please contact Ruth

Caputo ([ruth1281@att.net](mailto:ruth1281@att.net) or (269) 323-1538) before August 28. If you need help with finances generally, scholarships are available - contact Cheryl Chapman at [ccfritter@yahoo.com](mailto:ccfritter@yahoo.com).





## LWVUS Convention Report

“What a great experience!” is how Wyn Cain described the national League convention in Dallas. Wyn and Jean Brown spent four days meeting men and women from all over the country who had stories to tell of how they are involved in issues!

Every League has a variation of this. Leagues in New Jersey towns that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy figured out a way to set up makeshift voting booths so voting could take place in spite of the devastation.

Jean and Wyn attended sessions on Climate Control and Campaign Financing – two issues our League has been studying. The best part of the convention for Wyn was meeting some of the 20



**Jean Brown and Wyn Cain at LWVUS**

volunteer lobbyists working in Washington.

Learning how they bring the League’s issues to the legislators made all of our hard work and study come to life. Getting an email from a staff secretary several months later that the congressman was going to support “our bill” made

our lobbyist’s day!

You can be proud of belonging to an organization that deals with issues and is non-partisan. Wade Goodwyn from NPR Dallas News told Leaguers at the banquet “keep up the good work and keep on what you are doing.”

LWVUS is promoting National Voter Registration Day September 23. If you know of anyone new to the state or new to being 18 years old, ask them to register online or to see one of our many Deputy Registrars.

Contact Stephanie Victor, Director for Voter Registration, for more information including how you can become a Deputy Registrar!

## LWVIL News

The state League reminds us that all eligible voters with an Illinois drivers license or state ID card can now register online. This works because the State Board of Elections database interfaces with the Illinois Secretary of State database so that names and addresses can be verified. This information should be shared with all qualified voters, especially young adults age 18 and older and new residents of the state. Those wishing to register can visit the website <https://ova.electionsil.gov>.

Recent attempts to make the redistricting process fair and transparent met a setback with the recent court decision. Many League members statewide

worked on the petition signature campaign and, despite the setback, were instrumental in raising awareness of the issue. Optimism still abounds, in that Judge Mikva’s ruling indicated another path to the same end would likely be deemed constitutional.

Stormwater educational programs are being shown in 12 public meetings, funded by a \$31,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The LWV Education Fund and the LWV Lake Michigan Region collaborated to obtain this grant last October.

Some of the other issues before

LWVIL include revisiting the League’s position on charter schools, voting rights restrictions, climate change and mental health. For more information, go to the LWVIL website <http://www.lwvil.org>.



**LWVIL delegates to LWVUS convention**

## 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

Wednesday Aug. 6, Lake Forest  
Parade

Aug. 31-Sept. 7, Lake Bluff  
Fund-raising at Noodles

Sunday Sept. 14, Lake Bluff, 2 p.m.  
Stormwater program

Saturday Sept. 20, 4-6 p.m.  
Fall kickoff, Location TBA

Sunday Sept. 28, Lake Forest, 1 p.m.  
County Candidate Forum

Sunday Oct. 5, Deerfield, 1 p.m.  
State and Federal Candidate Forum

### **League of Women Voters Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Board of Directors**

#### **OFFICERS**

Liz Bradner	Co-President
Wyn Cain	Co-President
Marilyn Turchi	Membership
Jean Brown	Co-V.P. Programs
Carol Gayle	Co-V.P. Programs
Terry Desmond	V.P. Voter Service
Steve Potsic	Treasurer
Joy Guscott-Mueller	Secretary

#### **DIRECTORS**

Linda Bartmes	Hospitality
Judy Grisamore	Communications, Publicity
Kathleen Conlon-Wasik	LWV-LC Board Liason
Ann Grant	Director-at-Large
Jane Partridge	Director-at-Large
Cindy Morehead	Director-at-Large

#### **OFF-BOARD POSITIONS**

Carol Russ	E-Alerts, LWV-LMR Liason
Stephanie Victor	Voter Registration
Nicki Snoblin	Webmaster
Diane Sanderson	Newsletter Editor
Stan Sanderson	Newsletter Publisher

“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.”