



LEAGUE LINES

WINTER 2016

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Holiday Luncheon Carrie Chapman Catt Award

Inside this issue:

- Holiday Luncheon
Carrie C. Catt Award
Feb 26 Meeting 1
- Co-Presidents' Letter
LWVIL Issues Briefing
Candidate Debates 2
- New Members 3
- Money in Politics (MIP)
MIP Consensus Process 4
- LWV Re: Constit. Amend.
Full Text of LWV Position 5
- Teen & Y.A. Mental Health
Indy Map Petition Status 6
- Lake County League News 7
LWV Sues For Rights
- Calendar 8

Our annual Holiday Luncheon on December 3 featured interesting information about ten "Fabulous First Ladies." Historian Barry Bradford, who spoke at last year's luncheon about women who have run for President,



Barry Bradford

told us about the remarkable achievements of Frances Cleveland, Edith Wilson, Sarah Polk,

Grace Coolidge, Lucy Hayes and Harriet Lane, as well as the better-known Eleanor Roosevelt, Lady Bird Johnson, Dolley Madison and Betty Ford.



We presented the Carrie Chapman Catt award to Jane Partridge. This was in recognition of her four years as co-president of the League, leading the 2006/2007 Immigration study, directing programs on health care, the 2010 Census Count, redistricting, and a Constitutional Convention, and presenting a book review on Frances Perkins.

Turn to **Luncheon, Page 3**

Important Meeting February 26!

Once a year our League members have the opportunity to decide issues we want to focus on in 2016-2017. What do we want to learn more about and to advocate?

Let's discuss this on Friday, February 26th at 1:00 p.m. at Terry Desmond's home, while we enjoy sweet and healthy treats.

Our response to National's proposed issues is needed as well as discussion of issues for our local League focus.

Come to 1681 Yale Court, Lake Forest. RSVP at www.lwv-lflb.org or call Liz at 847-234-1612.

LWV proposes that we focus action on Making Democracy Work; to include redistricting reform, voting rights, and money in politics reform, and not take on new studies. We must respond to LWV by March 1, 2016.

For our local program, we will decide whether to retain, change, or delete any of our local positions, which are printed in the Membership Directory. Members can also propose new local studies.



Snowflakes

I counted till they danced so
Their slippers leaped the town,
And then I took a pencil
To note the rebels down.
And then they grew so jolly
I did resign the prig,
And ten of my once stately
toes
Are marshalled for a jig!
—Emily Dickinson

Co-Presidents' Letter

Dear League members,

As this newsletter shows, we're off to a busy new year. We would like to increase attendance at our events, both by members and the public, so please give League priority in your calendar

planning. Your local board puts a great deal of thought in organizing these educational programs.

We know we are effective in advocacy from the positive reception we receive from legislators, other reform

organizations, and parade-watchers.

See you at the important Program Planning Meeting Feb. 26th.

Liz and Wyn
Co-presidents

LWVIL Issues Briefing - You are invited!

What are the main issues for League members in Illinois this winter? Come to hear this timely forum. The LWVIL will brief members on **Saturday, February 27** at University Center, 525 South State Street.

Gun Violence Prevention led by US Rep. Robin Kelly of the 2nd District Illinois will be the first plenary session. Three workshops are offered following that session.



R Kelly

Fulfilling the Promise of Public Education will be led by Dr. Roger Eddy, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of School Boards.



R Eddy

Cynthia Canary from the Independent Maps Amendment Campaign will



C Canary

present **The 2016 Redistricting Amendment - Persuading the Public That It will Make a Difference.**

The third option is the **Illinois Clean Jobs Bill**, with Elaine Nekritz (sponsor of the bill) and Jen Walling of the Illinois Environmental Council.



E Nekritz



J Walling

Mark Walsh, Campaign Director of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, will be available for those interested during the box lunch break.



M Walsh

Plenary session II is **The Outlook for Criminal Justice Reform in Illinois** featuring Rodger Heaton,



R Heaton

Chair of the state commission on the topic, and John Maki, director of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority



J Maki

Afternoon workshops include **Stand Up for Healthy Water, Effects of Mental Health Problems on Prisoners in Illinois, and Consolidate, Eliminate, or Continue to Fund** - what to do about over 6900 units of government in Illinois. (More details at lwvil.org)

A new feature is dinner and dialogue at nearby restaurants for those who want to continue discussions or to meet other League members.

Please contact Liz Bradner as soon as possible if you would like to attend this February 27th event!

Candidate Debates Planned

One of our finest services to the voting public is to hold a candidate debate before each election. Voters hear opening statements from each candidate; then they may ask questions. Candidates can respond to their opponents.

On Sunday, February 28, four Leagues (Lake Forest-Lake Bluff, Deerfield, Highland Park/Highwood and Glencoe-Glenview) will jointly present the can-

didates for the contested Democrat races.

There are two candidates for 10th Congressional District: former US Representative Brad Schneider and Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering; and two for Lake County State's Attorney: attorneys Matt Stanton and Michael Perillo Jr. No Republican nominations are contested at the local level.

Come to the Highland Park Country Club, 1201 Park Avenue, Highland Park at 1:30 on Feb. 28 to hear this important debate.

We will present a debate in October, tentatively on October 16, for the general election. At that time, the Republican, Democrat and Independent candidates will be invited to participate.

Luncheon, from Page 1



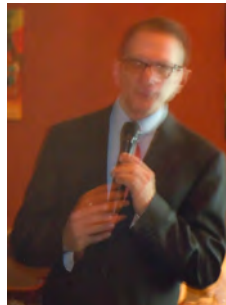
Carrie Chapman Catt Award winner Jane Partridge (seated)

Jane is the author of *Eighty-five Years and Counting*, which describes the history of our local League. She has worked tirelessly to increase our membership and our vis-

ibility. She initiated monthly e-alerts.

Jane is a former English teacher and a number of her former students were in attendance.

Luncheon was at a new venue: Froggy's French Cafe in Highwood, and it was delicious. Interesting books were once again made available for purchase by the Lake Forest Book Store. A total of \$476 was added to our Education Fund, and we had good food and a great time to boot!

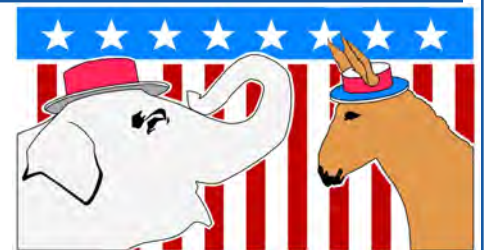


New Members

Welcome to new members Anne Vanderbilt, Lisa Lev, Beth Teich and Helen Fandrei. Their fresh energy will help us promote our events and staff programs with volunteers. Let's build strength with greater numbers!

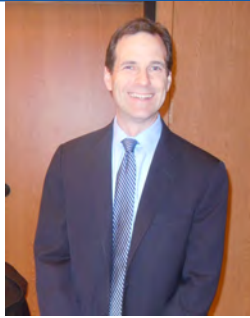


Do you have a friend who would help make democracy work?



Money in Politics

A major focus this year was the LWV study of money in politics. The League's current position on campaign finance does not address donors' rights to free speech. It deals with the public's right to know about candidates and sets goals of combating corruption and undue influence, together with providing equitable funding opportunities for candidates.



Scott Drury

Thomas Edsall wrote in the *New York Times* "Nearly everyone in America agrees that there is too much influence-seeking money in politics, except for the people who

benefit from it."

We held a public forum on November 9, 2015, at the First Presbyterian Church, Lake Forest, entitled *Democracy and Governance in a Post-Citizens United U.S.* Speakers were State Representative Scott Drury of the 58th District; David

Melton, Executive Director, Illinois Campaign for Political Reform; Mary Schaafsma, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Illinois; and Benjamin Singer,

Campaign Manager for MAYDAY.US.

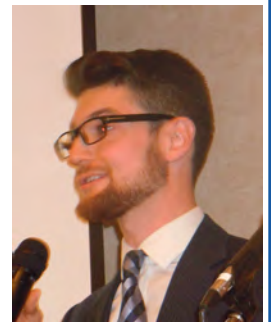
Representative Drury discussed how fund-raising affects campaigning and serving in office. Mary Schaafsma stressed the League's interest in transparency of donors.



David Melton

David Melton's organization seeks a small donor matching system moving toward public financing. They

regret that a candidate's fund-raising prowess is often seen as a predictor of electoral success, rather than his/her fitness for office. Benjamin Singer also spoke for small donor matching to fight corruption and to elect reformers.



Benjamin Singer



Before the event

The new position will address donors' rights. The Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision dealt with the issue of First Amendment (free-speech) rights of donors, candidates and independent spenders.

The purpose of the 2015 LWV study was to update and clarify our position.

Consensus Meeting: Money in Politics

We then met on January 15 at Lake Forest College to determine consensus on the LWV money in politics questions. Only members participated and their opinions have been submitted to LWV.



**David Mueller, Wyn Cain, Marilyn Turchi
Consensus Participants**

sensus, it is helpful to look at the LWV Handbook for Successful Consensus Meetings.

The dictionary defines consensus as "collective opinion or concord, general agreement or accord." The term is often used (1) interchangeably with the term "member agreement" to refer to the overall decision-making (2) to refer to a specific technique used to discuss and arrive at conclusions on issues.

Used as a technique for reaching agreement, consensus is a process whereby members participate in a



**Carol Gayle
Presenting**

group discussion of an issue. The "consensus" reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity, but refers to the overall "sense of the group".

Member agreement emerges from the give and take that comes from group interaction and the exchange of viewpoints.

Listening to and participating in discussion helps to shape the recommendations.

The goal of consensus is to incor-

Turn to **Consensus, Page 5**

To better understand the process of con-

New LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Position

Following the consensus meetings last fall (in which we participated), the national LWV board adopted a new position on the constitutional convention process of proposing amendments to the U. S. Constitution. **The entire text of the press release is printed below.**

To summarize:

1. The Convention must not be conducted in secret;

2. Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote; and delegates should be elected rather than appointed;

3. Voting must be by delegate, not by state;

4. The Convention must be limited to a specific topic;

5. Only state resolutions on a single top-

ic count when determining if a Convention should be called;

6. The validity of state calls should be determined by the most recent action of the state.

Further, to prevent a runaway convention, proposals that are more suited to a statutory, detailed approach rather than a constitutional approach are not to be considered.

LWV Press Release Re: Constitutional Amendments

The League of Women Voters today announced a new position calling for safeguards to govern the constitutional convention process of proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

“The League believes that procedural safeguards must be put in place to protect democratic values and ensure that any proposed amendments reflect the concerns of citizens,” said Elisabeth

MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

“We cannot afford to have a chaotic or unrepresentative process for amending the Constitution. We can’t afford to let special interests dominate a constitutional convention,” MacNamara continued.

There are many current proposals for

constitutional amendments, from both the right and the political left, from a Balanced Budget Amendment to one curbing the rights of corporations. “Everyone should be concerned what a runaway, topsy-turvy Constitutional Convention might do. Before we head into uncharted territory that could affect our basic principles of government and our individual rights, we need to

Turn to **LWV Position, Page 7**

Consensus, from Page 4

porate the interests of all participants in building meaningful agreement. It does not mean that everyone is equally supportive of the agreement, but it does mean that all participants believe they have been heard and that the agreement reflects their concerns.

People can consent without agreeing. One individual cannot simply declare a block to consensus. The group must agree that they have not reached consensus.

Sometimes a dissenter holds the keys to the wisdom of the group. Addressing the concerns and reservations of a dissenter often improves the quality of decision making for the entire group.

Occasionally members will ask “can’t we just take a vote.” The an-

swer is ‘no’. Voting is no substitute for the informal and meaningful give and take of discussion and agreement.

The end of the meeting review: The last ten or fifteen minutes at the end of the meeting should be used for the recorder to review the notes and reaffirm the sense of the meeting. This reassures everyone that their thoughts have been heard. It will also clarify where agreement has been reached. (Comments may be added to the form if a member wishes to express her/his opinion.)

Afterthoughts

Widespread member understanding and agreement is a foundational

value of the League of Women Voters. The participation of many Leagues in studies makes this possible. Your contribution is invaluable to the national study committee in continuing this legacy of thoughtful deliberation.

(The entire handbook can be found by searching "LWV consensus handbook")



**Ann Grant, Cunthia McKenzie, Ann Hamlin
Consensus Participants**

Teen and Young Adult Mental Health Event

Our focus on health care defense led us to concern about protecting and promoting mental health in young people. After learning that the Affordable Care Act provides the same treatment benefits for mental as for physical health, we invited Dr. Mark Reinecke to speak on



Mark Reinecke

January 28th. CROYA (Committee Representing Our Young Adults) co-partnered with us and hosted the well-attended event.

We were very fortunate to

have Dr. Reinecke, who is the Chief of Psychology at Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine and in clinical practice with children and adolescents. We were also fortunate to have our member Dr. Steven Potsic moderate the event. He is a MD retired from a career in public health.



Steve Potsic



Event Crowd

Tony Beltran, Executive Director of the Lake County Health Department, described services available from his agency. Lauren Giles, Individual and Family Counselor with Family Services of Lake County, provided additional information.

CROYA Executive Director Todd Nahigian spoke about services provided by that organization. High School District 115 was represented by Dean John Meyer, who is also on the Adult Board of CROYA.

Dr. Reinecke described the tasks that young adults must master, going from childhood to adulthood. Eighty

percent are successful, but 20% have difficulty. They learn autonomy, becoming self-sufficient, self-directed persons able to function in society. They learn friendship, with social skills and a sense of belonging.



Todd Nahigian

Achievement comes through academic competence and development of realistic vocational goals. Spirituality and values grow with increasing use of abstract as opposed to concrete thinking.

Sexual development deals with a 10-year gap between reproductive maturation and socially responsible behavior. Finally, adolescents experiment with possible selves and settle on their own self-concept. On this course, untoward things happen, and teens and young adults need to develop resilience.



Independent Map Amendment—Petition Drive

The petition drive to put drawing state legislative boundaries on the fall 2016 ballot has collected 503,500 signatures and 96,500 more are needed by April 30, 2016.

While our League members collected 350 of those signatures, we could do better! Consider that we have approximately 90 members, and each petition has room for 10 names. Do the math. If each member turned in one petition, how many signatures would we have collected? Another factor to consider is that some members have submitted several completed petitions! Are we feeling a bit guilty?

According to the Independent Map Amendment website, Jan Goldberg of LWV LaGrange Area has set a personal goal of obtaining 2000 signatures by



Spring of this year. As of July 2015 she had already collected over 600 signatures!

This campaign is supported by Change Illinois, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Union League Club, the League of Women Voters of Illinois, Independent Voters of Illinois, and Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, our State Senator Julie Morrison of the 29th District, and our State Representative Scott Drury of the 58th District. If passed, districts would be drawn by a commission independent of the political parties.

Lake County League News

Our friends in the Lake County League registered voters at Carmel High School, Lake Zurich High School, Warren Township High School and at Christo Rey St. Martin College Prep High School. Diane Sanderson and Susan Zingle organized these registrations. League and volunteers from other organizations helped register.

Deputy Registrars met students eager to exercise their civic right and duty to vote. As many as ten Deputy Registrars were kept busy as students took time from their lunch hour to register. The

17- and 18-year olds looked very proud as they carried their receipts away. A few older citizens were also registered at these events.

County voters can hear and question candidates for 10th Congressional District and for State's Attorney on Sunday February 21 at 1:30 P.M. at the Round Lake Beach Cultural and Civic Center, 2007 N. Civic Center Way, Round Lake Beach. It is cosponsored by the Round Lake Area Library and radio station WRLR 98.3 which will broadcast live.



Rosemary Heilemann

The Lake County Women's Coalition will honor Deerfield Leaguer Rosemary Heilemann at Bonnie Brook Restaurant in Waukegan on March 5, for her public service.

LWV Position, from Page 5

make sure some basic rules are in place," according to MacNamara.

The League supports these safeguards for a Constitutional Convention:

- 1) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret;
- 2) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote; and delegates should be elected rather than appointed;
- 3) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state;
- 4) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic;
- 5) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention should be called; and

6) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention should be determined by the most recent action of the state.

The new League position is especially relevant because the Balanced Budget Amendment is close to achieving the number of states needed to require Congress to call a convention. "The states that have called for a convention on the Balanced Budget Amendment have not provided for the safeguards that are necessary. Any calls for a constitutional convention must have built-in protections to ensure it is not hijacked by a small minority," MacNamara said.

Article 5 of the U.S. Constitution

provides for two ways to amend the constitution. Congress can initiate an amendment or, if two-thirds of the states petition Congress to do so, a Constitutional Convention can be called to propose amendments. Under either mechanism, proposed amendments must be ratified by three-fourths of the states in order to take effect. There has never been a constitutional convention called under the U.S. Constitution.

"There are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. These problems must be solved before America embarks on a dangerous journey," MacNamara concluded.

LWV Sues to Protect Voting Rights

LWV US and affiliates in three states filed suit on February 12, 2016 in federal district court to reverse action by the Executive Director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) which restricts federal voter registration in Alabama, Georgia and Kansas.

LWV President Elisabeth MacNamara said, "voters should not have to face an obstacle course to participate and vote."

EAC Director Brian Newby unilaterally ruled states may require documentary

proof of citizenship on federal voter registration application forms. His decision was made without a vote of the full commission, despite that being a requirement of the 2002 Help America Vote Act.

Citing a ruling of the U. S. Court of Appeals (Kobach v. EAC), LWV MacNamara stated her expectation that the EAC action would be declared illegal on the basis that its language is state-specific.

She further stated, "This is now the fifth time the EAC has been pushed to give a different answer to the same question. Enough is enough. They can keep coming back but we will not tire of making sure they continue to fail."

"We had hoped that a reconstituted EAC would focus on improving election administration. This action by the executive director would make the election system worse. His action challenges the impartiality of the commission," according to MacNamara.

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area



P.O. Box 645 • Lake Forest, IL 60045



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area

Still Going Strong Since 1926!



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

Calendar

- Feb. 26: Program Planning
- Feb. 27: Issues Briefing
- Feb. 28: Candidate Debate
- Mar. 1: LWVUS program planning due
- Mar. 9: Board meeting
- Mar. 15: Primary election
- Apr. 13: Board meeting
- May 11: Board meeting
- Jun: 16-19: National convention

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

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

Linda Bartmes	Hospitality, LWV-Lake County Liaison
Jean Brown	Hot Topics Editor
David Mueller	LWV-LMR Liaison
Cindy Morehead	Director-at-Large
Ann Grant	Director-at-Large
Judy Grisamore	Director-at-Large

OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

Carol Russ	E-Alerts
Nicki Snoblin	Webmaster
Diane Sanderson	Newsletter Editor
Stan Sanderson	Newsletter Publisher
Mary Mathews	Facebook Editor

“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.”