

**SCHAKOWSKY WILL SPEAK AT AUGUST 29  
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The Evanston Ecology Center, 2024 McCormick Blvd., is the designated venue for **Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's** 2007 legislative update for the LWVE. The lunchtime gathering will begin at noon on Wednesday, August 29.

This event is a perfect opportunity to introduce potential members to the LWVE and engage them in the democratic process. An invitation has also been extended to the Leagues of Chicago, Glenview, Park Ridge, and Wilmette, each of which is at least partially within the 9th Congressional District.

The cost is \$15 for a cold buffet lunch, payable at the door (cash or check, payable to League of Women Voters of Evanston). Please be sure to RSVP by August 22. We request those with e-mail access to RSVP to [RSVP@lwve.org](mailto:RSVP@lwve.org) (write "Legislative Lunch" on memo line), or leave a message with Judy Hoffman at 847-491-6275.

**WHAT'S GOING ON?**

**County League asks for more transparency**

On May 21, over 100 league members attended the LWV of Cook County Annual Meeting, held at the Brookfield Zoo. Positions adopted include those advocating greater separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches of Cook County government, and another advocating a reduction in the number of votes needed to override a veto. The current 4/5 majority makes override virtually impossible. The group also called for

greater transparency in all aspects of county government. Two studies were proposed. One would review the County League's current positions regarding juvenile justice in the county; the other would review its employment practices. Approval of both will require getting a sufficient number of members to participate. Those interested can call county LWV at 312-939-5935 or write [info@cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org](mailto:info@cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org)



**DATES TO NOTE**

**Thursday, August 9, 7 p.m.**  
Regular Board Meeting  
King Home  
1555 Oak Street, Evanston

**Wednesday, August 29,  
noon**  
Legislative Update  
Evanston Ecology Center

**School funding reform**

Disappointment has replaced the considerable optimism that the state assembly would enact a school funding reform bill this spring. Disagreements between the governor and legislative leaders on several issues led to an overtime session. A + Illinois with LWVE support continues its campaign for this essential reform.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF EVANSTON

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### THE INTERCOM

July/August 2007  
Vol.85, No. 10

**THE INTERCOM** is the newsletter of the League of Women Voters® of Evanston. Ten issues are published each year.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters® is a non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through citizen education and advocacy.

Starting today (as I write this), my term as president officially begins. I look forward to the gift of a full schedule. Karen Telser, whose term has just ended, has been generous with her time in reviewing the intricacies of being president. Val Krejcie, Karen's predecessor, has similarly volunteered her continuing availability for advice and support. I am grateful to them both. Karen Telser had all the old and new board members to her home on the morning of July 21, to exchange portfolios. That is, notebooks, wisdom, and notes about pitfalls.

A great head start on the year was attending the state LWV convention in Matteson, south of Chicago. Evanston's delegates were new member Susan Black, plus Karen Hunt, Michelle Jordan, Janet Kittlaus, Val Krejcie, and myself. The Friday workshops were geared to "how to" sessions. Connie Goddard, our new *Intercom* editor, came just for these.

Routine business moved along with typical league restraint. Delegates took the opportunity to express their views clearly and briefly. Wording changes in the recommended position on Immigration and the non-recommended item on Judicial Evaluation generated intense discussion, including late-evening and early-morning caucuses. Read the next issue of the *Illinois Voter* for details.

Among the awards was ours for Phonathon participation. The certificate is on the bulletin board in the Evanston League office. In other important business, two Evanston members, Val Krejcie and Michelle Jordan, were elected to the state board. Janet Kittlaus was elected to the state nominating committee. Congratulations to all.

We were especially proud of the Carrie Chapman Catt award to Jan Otwell. Named after the suffragist generally recognized as having founded the national League of Women Voters in 1920, Carrie began her career as a journalist, as did Jan. For more on this honor, see the article and photos on the facing page.

We look forward to more of the successful and stimulating open program meetings. That our Voters Service board members are working in the atmosphere of the 2008 presidential election means we will have a busy year ahead.

Virginia Rosenberg

### STATE LEAGUE HAS BIENNIAL MEETING

The LWVIL held its state convention June 22 to 24 in Matteson. In addition to regular business, the session recommended two new positions and readopted others. The new position on immigration advocates provision of services for immigrants regardless of documentation status, and opposes deputizing police to enforce immigration laws. The other new position supports better means for informing citizens about the qualification of judges than the state's current process allows.

The "Making a Difference" award was presented to the Elmhurst league at the Friday dinner, which included a talk on the state senate by majority leader Debbie Halvorsen. On Saturday, the Carrie Chapman Catt award was presented to both LWVE's Jan Otwell and activist Barbara Moore of the Park Forest League.



*Pictured at left is state league president Paula Lawson with Saturday speaker Jesse Jackson, Jr.*

*At right, Valerie Krejcie with the event's humorist Aaron Freeman.*



### JAN OTWELL HONORED WITH CATT AWARD



During its annual meeting, the LWVIL acknowledged two distinguished members with the Carrie Chapman Catt award, the highest honor it bestows. This year, long-time LWVE member Jan Otwell was a recipient. She is pictured above, center, with other LWVE members who attended the convention.

For decades, Jan has effectively championed the league's mission, both as a volunteer and as a public servant. While on the LWVIL board (1968 to 1981), she spearheaded efforts to ratify the ERA in Illinois. In 1982 Jan was elected to the LWVUS board.

From 1984 to 1991, as a member of the governor's cabinet, she directed the state Department on Aging. Later she created a group of 90 statewide leaders to assess the effects of an aging society. Her public service also includes a decade of working with AARP as Midwest Director. When she retired in 2001, she joined the LWVE board, edited the *Intercom*, and has since been observing the Evanston City Council.

The Evanston League, who nominated Jan for this award, joins Jan's husband Ralph, their three grown sons, and five grandchildren in congratulating her on this well-deserved honor.

### **HIGH RISE TOPIC AT MAY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

The chief item on a lengthy agenda at the May 29 P&D meeting was a presentation of the developer's plans for a 250-unit high-rise proposed for Fountain Square. The 37-story LEED certified (environmentally sound) building would leave the current War Memorial in place, mitigate the creation of wind, and include a semi-heated garage. The project heads to Planning Commission, then back to P&D for consideration. Several other proposals came up for consideration, including a mixed-use proposal for 1890 Maple, at the corner at Emerson (also LEED certified). In their presentation, the developers described the visual transformation of Evanston over the past two decades, but noted that the Emerson corridor has been neglected. Their plan would help correct this. No action was taken. Ald. Holmes proposed a 180-day moratorium on new downtown construction, noting the planning study now underway. The council considered the pros and cons and which projects are currently "in the pipeline" and hence not affected. No action was taken.

Nancy Bashook

### **REVIEW PROCESS DISCUSSED**

Periodically, the Human Services Committee has discussed establishing an additional citizen review process for the Evanston Police Department. Several aldermen have expressed concern that citizens are not adequately involved in the process; another suggests that the current process has worked adequately. Consensus among council members at a June 19 special meeting was that due diligence is essential because of budgetary and legal ramifications. Discussion highlighted easily corrected weaknesses and explored alternative processes. The issue will be discussed further at the regular meeting in August.

Karen Hunt

### **ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC WORKS**

During its June 25 meeting, a lightning warning system at James Park and two contracts for leadership training were approved. The committee is also devising a plan for culling the knowledge of long-time staff retiring soon. Contracts were awarded for Twiggs Park and bike path work; both involve IDOT help. Renovating Evanston's animal shelter and fire station number 5 were approved.

An easement agreement with the Mather and Georgian homes will result in a tunnel and porte-cochere; Davis Street will be closed for six months. TIF funds will do a \$224,000 repair of Fountain Square, avoiding disconnection of its water supply. A slide show demonstrated the need for an ordinance to enforce the current storm-water control regulations.

Sue Brenner

### **LAND TRUST TOPIC AT JUNE P&D**

At the June 25 meeting, the Evanston Housing Coalition was granted funds to help rehabilitate 24 apartments on Wesley. Two requests from the Lighthouse Community Land Trust are still under discussion; both would involve rehabilitating homes under foreclosure, reselling them at affordable prices. Council asked for further clarity. A request for a time extension for a residential development at 1881 Oak Street was granted; in return developers offered \$200,000 for affordable housing to clean the site. Some alderman objected, but the request was approved.

Ruth Singer

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**NEWS FROM THE LWVE OFFICE**

A group of very dedicated volunteers provides staffing for the LWVE office in the Civic Center. Every business day, someone checks phone messages and e-mails, routing inquiries to the proper person for response.

On Wednesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., the volunteer on duty for that week is present in the office. The mail is sorted and passed on to those concerned. Thanks to all the volunteers for their service, and especially to Dorrie Lloyd-Still, for helping me learn the system! Below is the August schedule for office volunteers.

July 30- Aug 3: Dorrie Lloyd-Still  
Aug. 6 -10: Sandy Gross  
Aug. 13 -7: Karen Vroegh  
Aug. 20 -24: Anna Anrod

-- Katy Compere Pendleton  
Office Coordinator  
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