

Plan to attend LWVE Immigration Forum

On Tuesday, January 30, there will be a LWVE forum on Immigration Issues. The meeting will be from 7-9 p.m., at St. Nicholas Church, 806 Ridge—in the church's social hall which is in the building west of the rectory. At the national League (LWVUS) convention last June, we voted to study immigration in the U. S. Now it's time to inform ourselves on the issues, as presented to us by LWVUS specialists and expanded on by local experts; and to reach a consensus on how to proceed. See the Immigration Insert to prepare for the February 10 Consensus Meeting.



On the Calendar

Annual Program Planning

Mon., Jan. 22, 7-9 p.m.
Carol Hirsch's home
2800 Lakeside Court

Focus on Immigration

Tues., Jan. 30, 7-9 p.m.
St. Nicholas Church
806 Ridge Ave.

LWVE Board Meeting

Thurs., Feb. 8, 7 p.m.
King Home, 1555 Oak Ave.
All members welcome.

Immigration Study Consensus Meeting

Sat., Feb. 10, 3-5 p.m.
Venue to be determined

Affordable Housing Lunch

Thurs., Feb. 22

LWVE Board Meeting

Thurs. Mar. 8, 7 p.m.
King Home, 1555 Oak Ave.
All members welcome.

LWVE Geenhouse Dinner and Fundraiser

Orrington Hotel, April 13
SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting, May 10,

LWVE will chart future action at January Meeting

Our annual Local Program Planning meeting is Monday, January 22, 7-9 p.m., at the home of Carol Hirsch (2800 Lakeside Court). In this meeting we choose the issues LWVE will address during the coming year, and decide on what we want the Illinois League to focus on for the next TWO years. This is a very important meeting. Encourage other members also to attend, as our decisions will affect the entire membership. RSVP Muriel Goodfriend (847-570-7852 please speak slowly) or RSVP@lwve.org

City/League Boards and Commissions Study

The City/League of Women Voters joint Boards and Commissions Study is moving along. Four sub-committees have divided the boards and commissions for study based on the City Council committee to which they report. A technical questionnaire, providing background information on 34 boards and commissions, was completed over the summer by staff. The results were tabulated and the questionnaires and responses turned over to the various sub-committees. A questionnaire for citizens not currently serving on a board or commission is now available for response at all of the Evanston libraries, the City Clerk's office, from **Jessica Feldman** at 847-864-2199, or on-line at www.cityofevanston.org/global/survey/survey/shtml.

In addition, a resource group will be researching best practices and benchmarks used in a small sample of communities that have similarities to Evanston. This committee, which is made up of League members, is still seeking additional help. If you are interested, call **Sue Brady** at 847-869-0873.

In order to gain their perceptions, a questionnaire to all members and staff of boards and commissions went out at the end of December. Once we have these responses, all the information that has been collected will be reviewed and analyzed and combined with the results of the resource committee's research to make a report and recommendations to City Council by early fall. Recommendations may address recruitment, training and orientation, succession planning for members and assigned staff, routine periodic review procedures and oversight.

President's Letter

On November 3 I left for a sorely needed R and R weekend in Williamsburg, Virginia. During a stopover in the Baltimore airport, a Southern man, having noticed the big red LWV button pinned to my purse, asked, "What is the League of Women Voters? Is it a Republican organization?"

I explained the League's mission and history of non-partisan study, debate, and positions. I told him, truthfully, that I didn't care which party was in a given office, only that the incumbent demonstrated integrity, intelligence, and foresight. I said that "liberal" means "freedom-giving" and "conservative" means "saving," and both are good qualities.

The man said he was thoroughly disgusted with the party whose membership card he carried in his wallet; but the idea of being non-partisan was alien to his experience and thinking. We talked more about the way the League operates, and by the time our airplane was ready for boarding, he and I had both had epiphanies. His was that it is possible to be a responsible citizen *and* a non-partisan voter.

My epiphany was that being non-partisan is not just a good idea: it is a profoundly great one. It is a mindset that feeds hope to our innate hunger for justice; assures greater objectivity and fairness in decision-making; provides direction for our unending quest for truth; serves the interests of the larger society; demands and builds intellectual discipline; pulls us away from our fearful, self-serving selves and places us under the guidance of our more-evolved selves.

At the end of our conversation, the man suddenly leapt to his feet, spread his hands in a questioning gesture, and asked, "So, what can we all *do*?" The words fell off of my tongue as though they were being spoken into my ear by an unseen fore-mother: "Tell everyone you know to join the League of Women Voters. We can repair our democracy together."

I wish you had been there to see the change that came over his face. The earlier scowl was transformed into a light-bulb-moment grin.

Sometimes I just *love* being a League president.

Karen



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THE INTERCOM

Vol. 85, No. 4

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 the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through citizen education and advocacy.

Names needed NOW for April Fundraiser!

The Linda Greenhouse Dinner Committee will gather at the end of this month for several days at the home of **Shirley Shevick** to address invitations to the April 13 dinner at the Orrington Hotel.

The Dinner Committee's goal is to mail 3,000 invitations. Our invitation list from the Community Dinner two years ago totaled 1500. So you can see we need the help of each and every League member. If each member of the Evanston League sends in 10 names and addresses, we would MORE THAN reach our goal!

There's not much time left, but all Leaguers received an Email from President **Karen Telser** at the end of December asking for names and addresses, and we've been pleased at the response so far. As a League, we are very fortunate to have secured *The New York Times* Supreme Court correspondent Linda Greenhouse as our speaker. With much citizen interest in the Supreme Court now because of recent appointees and because of high profile cases likely to come before the court, Linda's message will be very relevant.

It's a perfect time of year to gather these names. You may recently have addressed holiday cards, so think about those friends and colleagues to whom we might send an invitation. Also, you might want to check the names on the boards or groups you belong to and send those names too.

Then make a list of the names and addresses and send them to **Emily Guthrie** Emily@lsprealestate.com If you prefer, you may fax the names to her at 847-570-9909 or mail to her at 730 Judson, Evanston 60202. Emily is taking the responsibility of merging new names into the data base from the last Community Dinner.

The Linda Greenhouse Dinner Committee is chaired by **Mary Ann and Mike Weston** and is currently busy with fundraising, design plans for the invitations, and arrangements with the Orrington. So PLEASE HELP OUT! You have our many, many thanks!

It's a Holiday Wrap

Thanks to **Valerie Krejcie** and crew—**Jessy Bradish, Barbara Butz, Gloria Callachi, Barb Eckel, Sonia Evenstad, Barbara Fowler, Karen Hunt, Michelle Jordan, Elizabeth Kinney, Judy Hoffman, Melissa Leasia, Gail Lovinger, Jackie McKay, Faye Muhammad, Jan Otwell, Betty Papangelis, Virginia Rosenberg, Toby Sawislak, Patty Sprague, Beth Stern, Kathy Tate-Bradish, Karen Telser** and **Margaret Wold**—for raising \$245 for the League by wrapping gifts at Borders and Barnes and Noble during the holidays.

February 10 Consensus Meeting

LWVE's Consensus Meeting on Immigration Issues will be Saturday February 10, 3 p.m. Having been informed about issues at the January 30 Immigration Forum and studied LWVE's materials on immigration issues, we will meet to form our own consensus on these issues. RSVP Muriel Goodfriend (847-570-7852 please speak slowly) or RSVP@lwve.org We will inform those of you who RSVP of where the event will be when we have a venue.

About the Issues Briefing

On Saturday, February 3, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., the LWVIL will present its annual "Issues Briefing," at Loyola University-Chicago (Water Tower Campus).

I attended an Issues Briefing for the first time last year and was exhilarated by everything I saw and heard. It was well worth giving up a Saturday (morning and afternoon only, not evening) to learn so much.

This year's topics are: The State of Voting in Illinois; LWV Advocacy and Front-Burner Issues (updates on State fiscal policy, assault weapons ban, and environmental policy); Judicial Independence; Criminal Justice: Prevention, Education, and Emerging Policy Discussions; How to Take Action with the League.

I urge you to attend, for your own benefit an enrichment. There's no homework, nothing for you to do but listen, learn, and discuss if you wish. The cost is \$45, which includes Continental breakfast, lunch (vegetarian is an option), and workshop materials. If you want to attend but don't have \$45 at the moment, please contact me and we'll talk about it. The campus is convenient to the EI, but I'll be driving and have room in my car for at least three others.

Karen Telser

February 22 Affordable Housing Lunch

Affordable housing is a long-standing LWVE priority. You will want to attend this lunch. Look for details in the February *Intercom*.

THE OBSERVER CORPS

Affordable Housing: The Nov.-Dec. *Intercom* came out before election day and the big local news coming out of the election was the failure of the Affordable Housing Referendum to pass. The vote was relatively close and some folks suggested that a) had the proponents (like the League) had more time and b) had the City Council made some decision about how the money was to be spent, the referendum may have passed.

Memo to the Rules Committee: Betty Papangelis, Observer Corps chair, sent a memo Dec. 11 to the Rules Committee to protest the hour-late start of the Nov. 13 Council meeting. League observers at that meeting found it disrespectful that the citizens and guests in the Council Chambers had to wait while the Planning and Development Committee went an hour beyond its adjournment time. Betty's letter read in part

. . .the Council meeting on Nov. 13 started one hour late and kept a large number of citizens waiting (impatiently). . .The League's observers sit among these citizens and hear their discontent, and then anger, as the scheduled meeting time passes and becomes 20, 30, 45 minutes and, on the 13th, one hour late. . . While we realize that the work of the Council varies considerably from meeting to meeting and that committees which meet earlier in the evening often run overtime, we look to you to work with staff to better plan agendas, to manage the progress of meetings, to speak clearly into the microphones, and to end meetings on time.

The Nov. 27 meeting (not necessarily because of the League memo!) began promptly at 8:30 and ended one hour later.

Budget Hearings: City Budget Hearings have been scheduled for three Saturdays in January—the 6th, 20th and 27th. They will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers. The new City Finance Director, Matt Brady will be present at these. He also was present Nov. 27 when the Council held a public hearing on the Property Tax Assessment.

2424 Oakton: The Planning and Development Committee has spent considerable time working with a recommendation from the Plan Commission to rezone part of the property at 2424 Oakton in order to create a mixed use development of retail, restaurant and commercial. The ordinance will go to the City Council.

Welcome, New Members

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847.475.0451
melindadworkin@sbcglobal.net

Connie Goddard
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847.864.3455
conniegoddard@comcast.net

Beth Ida Stern
711 Madison St., 60202
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Ruth L. Stern
1715 Chicago Avenue
#918, 60201
847.328.2460

When You Write a Check to the Education Fund

The League of Women Voters has TWO incorporation statuses: one for advocacy and another for educational activities:

- Contributions made payable to the LWVE, such as your membership check, support the advocacy efforts of the local, county, state, and national Leagues, as well as the day-to-day operations of our Evanston League. Obviously, these contributions are also extremely important; unfortunately, they are not tax-deductible.

- Contributions given to the Education Fund (a 501c3 organization) which supports candidate forums and educational programs and materials, for example, are fully tax-deductible. Those checks should be made payable to **LWV EDUCATION FUND**.

They should NOT be made payable to the LWVE with *Education Fund* in the check memo. If you inadvertently write a donation check intended for the Education Fund but made payable to the LWVE, eventually the book-keeping will be straightened out (if we discover the error). However, this will take the time and expertise of a number of people, and it invites error.

We thank you for attention to this detail.

2007 Membership Directory

Our LWVE membership persons Janet Kittlaus and Kathy Tate-Bradish are finalizing member data for the directory and will soon send the text to Barb Eckel for editing and production. You can expect to see your copy of the 2007 Membership Directory in late January or early February.

Your 2006-2007 Board



Sonia Evenstad was led to LWVE by her friend Karen Telser. She edits the *Intercom*—a learning experience. She never ceases to be amazed by the depth of commitment League members make to issues that are important to her



Helen Heyrman experience in LWV includes founding a chapter in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin. Her lifelong passion for social justice took her to Selma to march with Rev. M. L. King. Currently Helen adds wisdom and a bit of sparkle to the Board, and proofreads the *Intercom*.



Betty Papangelis chairs The Observer Corps, whose members attend the City Council and its various standing Committees. Betty has served as an alderman, a member of many Evanston Boards and Commissions and as a board member of the Evanston Community Foundation and Leadership Evanston.



Karen Telser, LWVE President, joined a League gun-control study group in the 70's and discovered what

the League is about and how it works. Teaching is her passion. She enjoys any opportunity to explain something she understand well, to someone who needs to know it.

Reluctantly we say good bye and bid farewell to **Fayrene Muhammad**, our board secretary. A fine opportunity in Rockford called her away from Evanston. Fayerene, we miss you!

October 26—Making Informed Choices

Before the November election, Professor Craig La-May challenged Leaguers to accept the complexity of our election process.



(From left) Cate Whitcomb, Craig LeMay, and Karen Telser

November 11—Coffee for Prospective Members



Those attending **Kathy Tate-Bradish's** coffee—members and guests—were treated to a replay of Helen Thompson's hilarious speech for the 2004 LWV National Convention.

November 14—About the Outcome of the 2006 Election

Professor Kenneth Janda put the 2006 election in perspective in the presentation at the YWCA.

Ralph Otwell and Janda exchange views.



December 5—Who Will They Come for Next?

The Celtic Knott accommodated an overflow crowd as speakers Gary Isaac and Jeremy Margulies enthralled the gathering with their experiences representing "enemy combatants".

The scene at the Celtic Knott



Speakers Gary Isaac (left) and Jeremy Margulies



Bernice Klosterman (left) and Wendy Klein

Photos by Valerie Krejcie