

ANNUAL MEETING CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL YEAR, ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, AND LEARNS ABOUT A MEMBER'S WORK IN KENYA

Almost 40 members of the League of Women Voters of Evanston gathered for the Annual Meeting in the Huss Gallery of the King Home on Thursday, May 8. As they carried out the official business of LWVE, they reflected on a successful program over the past year.

An outstanding achievement this year was the fall Constitution Contest for Evanston seventh graders, planned by Toni Gilpin and an active committee, along with the enthusiastic support of administrators and teachers in District 65. The contest challenged Evanston students to focus on the importance of the Bill of Rights, and resulted in creative essays, art works, and videos explaining and applauding the rights of American citizens, highlighted in a well-attended public celebration.

Over a pleasant salad dinner, League members recalled the successful programs presented by the League over the year, including a presentation by Professor Bernadine Dohrn on the juvenile justice system, a fascinating overview of the history of African-Americans in Evanston, an analysis by Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin of the pros and cons of an Illinois Constitutional Convention, and several others. The League participated in the Cook County LWV poll-watching project for the primaries in February, and we had a successful and convivial progressive dinner in March.

Turning to business, League members approved a Local Program for 2008-2009, including the local positions and priority issues for action and education: affordable housing, global climate change / environmental protection, local impact of the No Child Left Behind Act, and election procedures.

An important focus of the meeting was the election of officers and a new Board of Directors. Karen Hunt was unanimously elected president. Outgoing President Virginia Rosenberg expressed her appreciation for the cooperation and hard work of the board and league members, predicted important work ahead during an election year, and reaffirmed



Karen Hunt, incoming LWVE president, presenting outgoing president Virginia Rosenberg with a flower-filled vase, a gift of the 2007-2008 board.

DATES TO NOTE**FOURTH OF JULY DAY PARADE**

Friday, July 4, Mid-day

March with other LWVE members; contact Voula Moragiannis at 847.733.7400 for more information.

AUGUST LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

More information will arrive mid-summer.

DEPUTY REGISTRAR TRAINING

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her commitment to the value of the League's work promoting citizen participation and effective government.

Following the official meeting, many members remained to hear Kathy Tate-Bradish report on her work teaching English, assisting the development of solar stoves, and providing education on safe sex and HIV/AIDS-prevention in a rural village in Kenya.

Betty Hayford

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

OUTGOING PRESIDENT WELCOMES NEW BOARD . . .



LWVE board for 2008-2009 gathered at the Annual Meeting for a group portrait – courtesy of our “staff photographer” Valerie Krejcie: [bottom row] Barbara Fowler (treasurer), incoming president Karen Hunt, and Susan Black (members database); [back row] Melinda Dworkin, Betty Hayford (secretary), Judy Hoffman (voter service), Kathy Tate-Bradish (membership) plus Melissa Leasia, Jessie Feldman, and Mimi Gilpin (all members at large), and Karen Telser (newsletter). Absent were Gloria Callaci (VP, local program planning), Sonia Evenstad (action alerts), and Toni Gilpin (VP, monthly programs).

And offers her valedictory . . .

I am grateful to you all for having given me the opportunity to be president of the League of Women Voters of Evanston this year. The one disappointment is that the Constitution Contest in the public schools that Toni Gilpin and her committee ran so ably was turned down for an award at the National Convention in June

Much as I have enjoyed my work with the League, I look forward to Karen Hunt's tenure as president. She brings special skills and talents in management and imagination to programming that will enhance the contributions the membership makes to our efforts to preserve informed democratic participation in good government.

I expect to remain an active member of the League, enjoying its many opportunities to learn about current issues in government, starting with the national convention in Portland, to which the board appointed Karen Hunt and Connie Goddard as well as myself as delegates. Also attending from Evanston will be Valerie Krejcie and Eleanor Revelle.

Virginia Rosenberg



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF EVANSTON

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OFFICERS / 2007-2008

President	Virginia Rosenberg
VP/ Local Programs	Toni Gilpin
VP/ Monthly Programs	Karen Hunt
VP/Membership	Kathy Tate-Bradish
Treasurer	Barbara Fowler
Secretary	Betty Hayford

DIRECTORS / 2007-2008

Observer Corps	Nancy Bashook
Programs	Gloria Callaci
Voter Service	Maidel Cason
	Melinda Dworkin
Intercom Editor	Connie Goddard
At-Large	Jessica Feldman
	Mimi Gilpin
	Melissa Leasia

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elected	Helen Heyrman
	Karen Telser
Appointed	Gloria Callaci

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Cate Whitcomb (webmistress), Katy Compere Pendleton (office coordinator), Janet Kittlaus (database administrator), Patrick Keenan-Devlin (publicity)

THE INTERCOM

June 2008 /Vol. 86, 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.

LWVE welcomes men and encourages members of Evanston's diverse communities to participate.

SHAKMAN ADDRESSES COOK COUNTY LEAGUE MEETING

Most League of Women Voters members have heard of the Shakman Decree, but they may never have considered that it emerged from a specific legal case filed by a living and breathing Michael Shakman, a candidate for the Illinois Constitutional Convention in the late 1960s. Michael Shakman lost his bid to become a convention delegate, and sued Cook County and the City of Chicago, claiming that he was disadvantaged by the fact that his opponent had the support of “volunteers” contributing their time at the direction of their patronage bosses.

Michael Shakman, still a practicing attorney in Chicago, provided members of the Cook County League of Women Voters with an talk called “The Shakman Decree: Past, Present and Future” at the Annual Meeting held on May 19 at the Brookfield Zoo. He made it clear that political patronage, strictly limited by the lawsuit he filed, hurts good government and thus is an important topic for the League to consider. He defined political patronage as the practice of controlling public employment for political benefit, through the raising of funds and the recruiting of “volunteers” for election work. He asserted that political patronage has long been deeply engrained in the political culture of Cook County and the City of Chicago.

The first Shakman Decree was issued in 1972, and it prohibited connecting public employment with political work. A second decree in 1983 extended the ruling, and by the late 1980s, the law was clear. But regular newspaper articles and recent convictions of high-level city employees demonstrate that party leadership has kept the patronage system in operation.



In another picture from the Annual Meeting, past president Karen Telser visits with recent member Elinor Smith.

Shakman claimed that progress has been made to limit patronage, particularly with the appointment of judicial monitors for both Cook County and the City of Chicago to oversee hiring practices. But continued effort is needed from these monitors, from elected officials, and from good government organizations like the League to continue the effort to transform this political culture based on patronage

The Cook County League has a major study project underway analyzing hiring practices in Cook County government. League members interested in getting involved should contact Karen Hunt or Betty Hayford, who are both active in the study.

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OBSERVER CORPS MEMBERS GIVE ANNUAL REPORTS AT MAY BRUNCH

On Saturday, May 17, the LWVE Observer Corps met at the home of chair Nancy Basbook to review the past year and note upcoming events and issues for the city of Evanston. Among them is the election of city officials to be held next April. Long-time observer Jan Otwell took notes; regular observers' names given in parentheses.

Boards and Commissions Study (*Jessica Feldman*): Despite the resignation of City Manager Julia Carroll, the implementation of the city's Strategic Plan continues, with this joint LWVE/city study an implementation tool for a plan goal. Surveys have been analyzed and a final report is underway, due later this summer.

Rules Committee (*Sue Calder*): This City Council administrative committee consists of all nine aldermen, with a rotating chair. Meetings tend to run late, thus holding up subsequent meetings. Issues dealt with: tweaking of ethics legislation, the downtown tower, Real Estate Transfer Tax, Ald. Rainey's personal website, vehicle stickers.

Human Services Committee (*Karen Hunt*): One of the council's three standing committees of the City Council, (others are P&D and A&PW); five aldermen serve and the chair rotates. Issues include immigration, Police Review Board, and licensing.

Administration and Public Works (*Judy Rosenthal, Sue Brenner*): This standing committee consists of five aldermen; one of its primary issues this year has been the capital budget. Others include liquor licensing, funding of pensions, outreach for minorities and women as recruits for the Fire Department, increasing crime and police outreach in the 8th Ward, the handling of an elevator contract renewal, plus poor condition of

city streets. The City Council also seems dissatisfied with staff for not completing its work in a timely manner.

Planning and Development (*Ruth Singer, Nancy Basbook*): This committee's meetings often begin late, due to A&PW running overtime; it hears developers and decides what to forward to the City Council. It also has responsibility for affordable housing, but limited expertise and very little enthusiasm for it. Among current issues: development of the former movie house property on Central Street and downtown development.

City Council (*Sue Brady, reporting for rotating observers*): Compared with two years ago, there is an air of civility among the members of the current council, though there is still a lot of "oration" on the part of some aldermen. A sign of what is to come is one alderman's laptop, on which she has her packet of information; other aldermen haul heavy notebooks to meetings. Citizens wishing to speak during the comment period are treated equitably by the mayor. Some issues dealt with: affordable housing, downtown moratorium, Civic Center, West Side Plan and TIF, budget and pension issues. Looking forward: all city officials are up for election in April; other issues deserving study include mayor's powers, need for a township supervisor, and appointing rather than electing the clerk.

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CLIMATE-CHANGE ACTION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

On May 4, close to 300 people gathered to learn about efforts underway to reduce Evanston's carbon footprint. Carolyn Collopy, the city's sustainability coordinator, unveiled a draft Evanston Climate Action Plan (ECAP) with over 200 strategies for reducing Evanston's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Developed through a collaboration of city staff and community volunteers, the recommendations cover a broad range of practices design to reduce GHG emissions by 13 percent in four years. This would fulfill a pledge to the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Over the summer, strategies will be integrated into a full plan; this is expected to go to the City Council for approval in September.

A committee was formed to map next steps and widen the circle of citizens involved. An ECAP website is in the works. Interested residents can begin reducing their own personal carbon footprint using Zerofootprint Evanston, a customized online environmental calculator to determine their annual CO2 generation and identify specific changes to reduce it. Residents can also contribute to the Evanston Climate Action Fund maintained by the Evanston Community Foundation to support local projects that reduce GHG emissions and benefit lower-income households, nonprofit organizations, and faith communities.

Eleanor Revelle



Long-time LWVE member Marjorie Fisher received an award for "Leadership in Sustainability" at the May 4 Earth Month celebration. Presented annually by the Network for Evanston's Future, the award recognizes her lifelong commitment to eliminating use of pesticides and promoting organic food and sound nutrition. Network co-founder Steve Perkins presented the award.

To learn more about Evanston's sustainability efforts, visit the Office of Sustainability website:

<http://www.cityofevanston.org/global/green/events.shtml>

Or go to other sites noted in article:

<http://creatingaclimate4change.com/>

<http://www.zerofootprint.net/calculators/evanston>

And Evanston Community Foundation:

<http://www.evanstonforever.org>

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847-475-1345

And make these changes:

Carol Balkcom
224-639-2108 (cell phone)

Shirley Dare
1 Calvin Circle, A202, 60201
847-570-3313

Susan Gilkey
shgilkey@aol.com



LWVE's Membership chair Kathy Tate-Bradish tells fellow members about her work in helping to fight AIDS in Kenya. Kathy's presentation was a highlight of the May Annual Meeting.

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remove work phone and email

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Patricia McConnell
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Helen Moag, add Apartment 3F

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For many decades, the League of Women Voters has set the standard for well-moderated candidate and issue forums – they represent the League in action, supporting our mission of safeguarding democracy.

On Sunday, May 4, the LWVIL sponsored a moderator-training session, hosted by LWVE and held at the King Home. Co-chairs Melinda Dworkin and Karen Telsler organized the event; Diane Lloyd, once LWVE president and currently a member of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff League, presented a wealth of information to the 16 members in attendance.

Members who have completed training are qualified to serve as forum moderators. The LWVIL works with local voter service chairs to maintain a list of trained moderators, and it will be contacting Judy Hoffman as moderating opportunities arise. Time-keepers and question-sorters are not required to attend moderator training; they, too, provide a valuable service while learning a great deal about the moderating process.

If you missed this valuable session but are interested in participating in the many forums anticipated along with the fall election, contact Judy Hoffman (judhof@aol.com or 847.491.6275).

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