

# League of Women Voters of Highland Park/Highwood *BULLETIN*



LWVHP/HWD BULLETIN

December 2011

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS:

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### **Where we've been.....**

- Public Forum - which we proudly offered on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education.
- Member-only Consensus Meeting to respond to study questions.
- Holiday Open House featuring the Mayors of Highland Park and Highwood

### **Where we're going.....**

- League-sponsored primary **Candidates' Forums**
- Winter Doldrums Dinner—Wine Presentation



*Click on gavel to check out the message from Margie and Rose*

### Results of the Education Consensus:

Read about the consensus that was reached at the LWVHP/HWD member only meeting devoted to this subject. The results were submitted to the LWVUS board for inclusion in the overall national consensus ...

### Immigration Update:

Something has to be done to resolve the plight of so many families and young people ...

### Local League:

- *Party Time*
- *Membership Information*



[CALENDAR](#) *CLICK TO GET TO FULL CALENDAR / GREEN NOTES*

# HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

## PRESIDENTS' LETTER DECEMBER 2011

### Where we've been.....

- This may be the close of a calendar year, but this fall has been the start of an eventful League year. We hope you were there at the Public Forum that we proudly offered on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, the subject of the ongoing LWVUS national Study. The current national political focus and our local concerns with regard to school finances couldn't have made this a more relevant topic. A full house at the Highland Park Country Club, expert panelists, and a lively interchange more than met our expectations.
- Subsequent to this event, we held a member-only Consensus Meeting to respond to study questions. The results were submitted to the National League to be combined with results from Local Leagues throughout the country to reach a national position. Our submission is shown on page \_\_\_\_.
- Our Annual Holiday Open House proved to be the perfect opportunity to celebrate the new League blending of Highland Park and Highwood by "having a conversation" with our respective mayors, Nancy Rotering and Charlie Pecaro. This lively social and community-minded gathering brought out the troops as usual.

### Where we're going.....

- The start of 2012, another prime election year, will include numerous candidates for numerous open elected offices resulting in League-sponsored primary **Candidates' Forums** – our prime activity. As they are scheduled you will be notified by email as well as by postings on our website, [www.lwvhp.org](http://www.lwvhp.org).
- To give you a "Winter Doldrums" break this oncoming season, we have arranged just what you'll need. Save the date of February 18, for another popular night out – Dinner at Bella Via with our own member wine connoisseur, Jerry Adler. Don't miss it this year! Details will be forthcoming.

But right now, have a happy and healthy holiday season!

Our best wishes to you all.  
Margie and Rose



# HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE NEWS

## LWVHP/HWD CONSENSUS *FEDERAL ROLE in PUBLIC EDUCATION*

The following opinions reflect the consensus that was reached at the LWVHP/HWD member only meeting devoted to this subject. The results were submitted to the LWVUS board for inclusion in the overall national consensus.

### **OVERVIEW**

1. The current role of the federal government in public education is too small.
2. The role should include the following concepts rated in the following order:
  - a. Insure that all students preK-12 receive a quality education.
  - b. Mandate common core standards for all students k-12.
  - c. Develop accountability measures that will study the progress of all students so they achieve adequate yearly progress.
  - d. Monitor state efforts for funding.
  - e. Measure teacher effectiveness through data.
3. A quality public education is important to perpetuate a strong and viable democracy.

### **COMMON CORE STANDARDS**

4. Currently the governors and state education officers have developed common core state standards that are national but not federal. Standards should be mandated of the states in order to obtain federal funding.
5. There should be a national assessment with the common core state standards and implementation should be mandated if fully funded.
6. National standards should lead to a nationally mandated curriculum to be aligned to the national standards and assessment.
7. The role the national assessment consortium should play in student evaluation should provide the following in the order below:
  - a. An assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core Standards.
  - b. Comparison data showing progress toward reaching Common Core Standards.
  - c. Criteria for determining readiness for college and careers.
  - d. Diagnostic information on each child.
  - e. Information to students, parents, teachers and school districts about student achievement.

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# HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE NEWS

## LWVHP/HWD CONSENSUS

### FEDERAL ROLE in PUBLIC EDUCATION - (cont)

8. Data from national assessments should be reported to parents, teachers, and students and the **community and should be “criterion referenced” and clearly informative so that teachers, parents, and students know how individual students have mastered criteria established at a national level.**
9. Information from nationally required assessment data should be used to inform districts how their population compares to others similar to theirs.

### **FUNDING and EQUITY**

10. In the past most of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act funding has been non-competitive based on need. All/any schools that prove they fall under the federal guidelines for funding receive those funds. Competitive and non-competitive grants should be appropriate for states/districts who meet certain federal requirements such as Race to the Top.
11. **If the federal government’s role is the concern of the “common good” then a combination of funded mandates and grants should apply.**
12. Equity in public education should provide equitable access to the following in this order:
  - a. High quality teaching/learning
  - b. Adequate and current learning materials
  - c. Clean and well maintained physical facilities
  - d. Food and health care
  - e. Safe and secure neighborhoods
  - f. Secure housing
13. Currently Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funding is considered **“categorical” rather than for general use. This means that it can only be used with special populations for special purposes.** ESEA should remain targeted toward poverty and special needs.
14. The federal government should have a role in supporting early childhood education, birth to age 5, for all children.
15. Federal support for early childhood education programs (Head Start, Title 1, Special Education, Early Start) should include funding for parent education; support regarding child development, child health and nutrition; and access to other supportive services, such as mental health, as needed. This support should be extended to all children.

## HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE NEWS

### IMMIGRATION UPDATE

President Obama has not been able to get the Congress to bring up any immigration changes to immigration policy during his time in office.

- Members in both parties do not agree on how to solve the problem of 11 million illegal immigrants in this country.
- The recession has slowed the numbers trying to come here and many have left voluntarily. The Latino communities feel betrayed. Even the DREAM ACT was defeated last term.
- Few states have been writing their own laws to prohibit undocumented persons from living or working in their state.
  - \* Alabama has the most oppressive law, and is now vowing to change part of it.
  - \* Arizona, Utah and Alabama are being sued in federal court. About 400,000 persons have been sent back to their home countries. This has destroyed families and caused hardships.
  - \* Illinois has resisted the SECURE COMMUNITIES Act. This act requires the police to send to ICE the names of anyone they suspect of being an undocumented person. Only New York and Massachusetts have followed suit.
- Just last week a high school boy named Joaquin Luna from Texas committed suicide. His note said he was depressed because he had no hope of a college education. He was brought to this country as a baby.
- Undocumented students do not receive grants or loans.

Something has to be done to resolve the plight of so many families and young people.

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL LWV NEWS

### GLENCOE LEAGUE EVENTS:

- Book Discussion—Open to the Public  
*Boomsday*, by Christopher Buckley  
Tuesday, January 10, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.  
Glencoe Public Library, Hammond Room
- Wine and Cheese with State Senator Susan Garrett 29th District  
Thursday, January 19, 2012  
7:00 p.m. Reception — 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker  
Round Table Books—572 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka  
RSVP by January 13 to [lwvglencoe@hotmail.com](mailto:lwvglencoe@hotmail.com) or to Rhonda Diamond at 847-835-4369  
**Cost: \$10 – Payable at the door**

# LOCAL AND REGIONAL LWV NEWS



LWVHP/HWD  
 HOLIDAY  
 OPEN  
 HOUSE

DECEMBER 15, 2011

## LWV HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2011-2012

Co-Presidents: Rose Feder and Margie Weiss  
 Vice Presidents: Nancie Blatt and Faye Grossman  
 Treasurer: Ginger Seff  
 Secretary: Barbara Kronish  
 Directors: Elaine Adler  
 Judy Johnston  
 Carolan Klapper  
 Sharon Narrod  
 Rhoda Pierce  
 Beverly Rosenstein  
 Sue Wieseneck

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2011-2012

Chair: Gail Feiger Brown, Chair  
 Members: Andrea Amend  
 Lila Trotsky  
 PLUS 2 appointed by board



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## LEAGUE CALENDAR

JANUARY	25	7:00pm	Board Meeting Home of Beverly Rosenstein
	28	8:30am - 3:00pm	LWVIL Issues Briefing University Center 525 South State St, Chicago
FEBRUARY	18	TBA	Winter Doldrums Dinner/ Wine Presentation Bella Via
	22	7:00pm	Board Meeting & National Program Planning Home of Sharon Narrod
	26	TBA	<b>Candidates' Forums:</b> 10th Cong, 29th State Senate, 58th State Rep. Districts Highland Park Country Club
	27		First day of early voting
MARCH	7	7:00pm	Local Program Planning Location TBA
MAY	19	TBA	Annual Meeting Bella Via
JUNE	8-12		LWVUS 2012 National Convention Washington DC

*Non-board members are always welcome to attend board meetings. Check website, [www.lwvhp.org](http://www.lwvhp.org), or call 847-432-4732 for locations.*

### GREEN NOTES:

- \* Wrapping presents?
  - \* Wrapping paper and shopping bags alone account for about 4 million tons of trash annually **in the U.S. Don't forget to recycle!**
  - \* Discarded maps and comic strips make attractive wrapping paper !
- \* Remember you can recycle your polystyrene foam Mondays and Fridays 7am—1pm at the City of Highland Park Firearms Training Center—1180 Half Day Road  
[http://www.cityhpil.com/documents/City%20Manager/Communications/2011\\_0426\\_FoamRecycling.PDF](http://www.cityhpil.com/documents/City%20Manager/Communications/2011_0426_FoamRecycling.PDF)

