



Highland Park League of Women Voters *BULLETIN*

LWVHP BULLETIN

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

*Democracy is Not
a Spectator Sport*

CONTENTS

Presidents' Letter
Local News/
Membership
Program Planning
LWVIL
Calendar
Green Notes

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LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING 2011 & DESSERT EXTRAVAGANZA

Thursday, February 10 at 7:00 pm

*at the home of Beverly Rosenstein,
2531 Augusta Way, 847-433-2929*

This is the first call to the Annual Meeting when members have the opportunity to have an active role in determining how our League can continue to make a difference in Highland Park.

We will review and update our current positions, set priorities, and decide where - and how - the League can have its greatest impact in the community. See pages 4 and 5 to see how best to prepare for program planning. But above all - Be There!

HIGHLAND PARK LEAGUE



PRESIDENTS' LETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

The first half of our League year - May 2010-Dec. 2010 - was an overwhelming success with record turnouts to our forums to find out candidates views on issues important to us. We ended with our second annual holiday open house when an overflow crowd of members and friends gathered to eat, drink and have a conversation with Terri Olian and Nancy Rotering, candidates for Mayor of Highland Park. It truly was a happening that could not have happened without the whole Board pitching in and working together seamlessly to make it all come together.

In a blink of an eye, 2011 is fast unfolding. Our local study committee that is developing criteria to evaluate non -mandated City expenditures, chaired by Sharon Narrod, is well underway. In line with this is our annual Local Program Planning meeting on February 10. This is the first call to our Annual Meeting in May when ideas are generated to focus the direction we will take next year.

Voter Service will again take center stage in March when we are planning an all day marathon prior to the local election in April. Candidates for our School Boards, Park District, City Council and Mayor will be on hand and will be available to answer questions and debate the issues. We will also be distributing our citywide candidates guide, this time, in keeping with our mission to be "green", electronically instead of on hard copy.

It is a perfect - and important - time to be a Leaguer armed with background knowledge and an understanding of the implications of funding decisions at all levels of government. We encourage you to share the knowledge, sign up friends. Attend our programs. Check our web site. Stay informed and active.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in the weeks ahead.

Margie and Rose

HIGHLAND PARK LEAGUE

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2010-2011

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2010-2011

Chair: Ginny Schulte, Chair
 Members: Barbara Kronish
 Laurie Marston

**** If you are interested in filling the secretary's position, please call Margie (432-9432) or Rose (432-4732). The responsibility includes the recording of board minutes.***



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 5, 2011

Women's History Month Luncheon

Dr. Rachel Bronson will be our guest speaker at the 18th Annual Luncheon Commemorating Women's History Month. Dr. Bronson is the Vice President of Programs and Studies at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Prior to that she served as Senior Fellow and Director of Middle East Studies at the Council of Foreign Relations in New York. Dr. Bronson's areas of expertise include U.S. national security and foreign policy. The luncheon is being held at The Glen Club, 2901 West Lake Avenue in Glenview. Invitations to be mailed soon.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*Welcome our new LWVHP member, **Corinne Bronson-Adatto***

*Reminder: If you haven't paid your 2011 dues, **it's not too late.***

HIGHLAND PARK LEAGUE

BE PREPARED.....

.....FOR PROGRAM PLANNING!

What Is It?

The issues that are to be studied and acted upon at each level of the League of Women Voters - national, state and local - are determined by the membership. This meeting is your opportunity to have an active role in determining the topics for local study and action in order to make a difference in Highland Park.

We will review and update our current local positions, hear reports from our on-going action and study committees and discuss in-depth ideas for next year's local studies and actions—issues that you and other Leaguers think need addressing at the local level.

After this meeting, the Board will meet to consider all the proposals discussed and will determine the recommended program, which will be announced in the next LWV *Bulletin*. Members are invited to submit additional non-recommended items for inclusion in the *Bulletin*. Our Bylaws stipulate that only those items which were announced to the membership at least one month before the Annual Meeting in May can be discussed and voted upon by the members at the Annual Meeting.

The ABCs of Being Prepared

Avidly read a summary of our existing local positions, which are available in your Handbook. Part of the evening will be devoted to discussing possible changes to our existing positions. We would like to do this as quickly as possible in order to leave time to discuss new ideas, so please come prepared if you would like to suggest modifications to a current position.

Brainstorm! What needs improving? What aspect of local government or services should be delved into? Where can the League have its greatest impact in the community?

Call ahead to develop your idea! To ensure that your idea receives maximum consideration, call Margie Weiss at 847-432-9432 for help in developing a proposal before the meeting. Be prepared to give a 1 or 2 minute “preview” of your proposal, to be followed by more in-depth details and explanation.

HIGHLAND PARK LEAGUE

.....PROGRAM PLANNING!

GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING NEW PROGRAMS:



- Is it a problem which can be met through government?
- Is it timely?
- Is there likelihood of tangible accomplishment?
- Can League contribute something on this issue beyond work being done by other organizations?
- Does the political structure and climate make action possible in this field?
- If it is a support position, is there current membership agreement on the position?
- Can members be kept informed without too heavy a workload?
- If the issue extends beyond local boundaries, could there be a conflict with other Leagues?
- Considering a TOTAL League program (National, State and Local), does the League have sufficient personnel, experience, funds and time to carry out the proposal?
- What is the membership appeal of the total program?
- Will it be of interest to potential new members?
- Will it provide opportunities for direct action to address community needs?
- Does it contribute to community education?
- Does it lead to collaboration with other community groups?
- Will it increase League visibility?

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS

The following is an important letter regarding candidate forums .

November 16, 2010

Dear Leaguers,

As you may have read or heard the League of Women Voters of Illinois came under attack. The LWV of Lake County held a forum for the 8th Congressional District, which was co-sponsored by Grayslake Central High School. During this forum there was a disruption from audience members demanding that the Pledge of Allegiance be recited. After most in the audience stood and said the Pledge, the Moderator tried to re-gain control. Many unfavorable blog articles were written about the Moderator, and the League and League was featured on Inside Edition and the Glen Beck Show. Some of the postings threatened the moderator of the forum and our executive director. Police reports were filed and an account was sent to the FBI. We stand by the Moderator and hope that all you can empathize with her role in this.

This is unacceptable behavior and should not be tolerated by anyone. Unfortunately this was not the only case of incivility. Leagues across the country have faced similar disruptions to their forums. Under the advisement of the LWVUS, the LWVIL chose not to respond to the blogs and articles. We will, however, work with the LWVUS to craft a message as we look forward to the 2012 elections. As Nancy Tate, Executive Director of the LWVUS said, “these attacks represent a concerted attack of our credibility as a trusted, nonpartisan organization-and one which is likely to get stronger in 2012. We intend to push strongly on this.”

Looking forward to the 2011 Consolidated Elections in your towns, the LWVIL is working to create guidelines that will help you as you plan for upcoming forums. We cannot prevent occurrences like this from happening but with better preparations perhaps we can respond more effectively.

Our work in Voter Service projects is vital to not only the League but to our communities. We need to continue our Voter Service work as we have done for the last 90 years. If you have and questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marcus, President- President@lwwil.org

Jan Dorner, Vice-president Voter Service- Voterservice@lwwil.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS

MAPPING THE FUTURE: LWVIL 2011 CONVENTION

GREAT NEWS!

The LWVIL 2011 convention, June 10-12, 2011, will be held nearby at the Holiday Inn North Shore in Skokie. Our League will be taking an active role in organization and development. As a Leaguer, you can become an on-site volunteer to help with setup, ushering or distributing information. Volunteering at the convention is a great way to see how League arrives at its emphasis on issues and the impact these issues have on us and on Illinois.

Mapping the Future is the theme of the convention. Filled with informative workshops and caucuses, convention is where representatives of Leagues approve the LWVIL programs for the next two years and elect state board officers.

The Chicago Bar Association's satirical "Bar Show" will be the highlight of the Saturday, June 11 dinner. LWVUS president Elizabeth McNamara will be the State League's special guest.

The convention is informative, rewarding and fun. Just ask anyone who has attended! Contact Elaine Adler at elainebadler@yahoo.com if you would like to participate.

FILM DOCUMENTARY: TAPPED

Sunday, February 13, 2011, at 2 p.m.

Auditorium of the Highland Park Public Library

This documentary is a behind-the-scenes look into the unregulated and unseen world of the bottled water industry. Also examined is the impact of plastic bottles on the environment and our health.

This program is presented with the Highland Park Natural Resources Commission and the League of Women Voters.

A discussion with William Bogot, Chair of the Natural Resources Commission, will follow the showing.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS



League of Women Voters of Illinois

ENews: January 13, 2011

Website: www.lwvil.org

LWVIL Issues Briefing: Saturday, February 5, 2011

Three weeks to go! Don't forget to register for the League of Women Voters of Illinois' annual **Issues Briefing**. We have an interesting program planned and encourage you to join us.

The briefing will begin with a panel discussion led by **Kathy Ryg**, former Illinois state representative and current president of *Voices for Illinois Children*; **Ralph Martire**, Executive Director, *Center for Budget and Tax Accountability*; and, **Sam Hudzik**, political reporter, WBEZ. They will address the topic,

New Governor - New Direction?

and offer a political analysis of where Illinois is headed with its deficit, backlog of bills, school funding, health and social services, and other important issues. Given the recent passage of a bill to increase Illinois' income tax, this discussion is important in understanding how Illinois can move forward.

Workshops, beginning at 1:00 p.m., include:

Effective Ways to Lobby Springfield in 2011

Panel: Lobbyists Paula Purdue, Larry Suffredin, Colette Kubiesa.

Redistricting: Where Do We Go From Here and How Do We Get There?

Share in a map-making exercise with Josina Morita of the *United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations*.

Health Care Reform and Its Impact on Illinois

Julie Hamos, Director of the *Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Service*

Pension Reform. Is it possible? Probable?

Nathan Anderson, UIC, *Department of Economic and Institute of Government and Public Affairs*

Register online: <http://www.lwvil.org/tickets11.asp>



LEAGUE CALENDAR

JANUARY	26	7:00 pm	Board Meeting Home of Elaine Adler
FEBRUARY	5		LWVIL Issues Briefing Sessions (various times)
	10	7:00 pm	Local Program Planning Meeting Home of Beverly Rosenstein
	13	2:00 pm	Film Documentary: "Tapped" Highland Park Library
	23	7:00 pm	Board Meeting and State Program Planning Home of Sharon Narrod
MARCH	5		Women's History Month Luncheon
	6		Candidate Forum (Details to follow)
MAY	14		Annual Meeting (Details to follow)
JUNE	10-12		LWVIL 2011 Convention

Members always are welcome at board meetings. Check website, www.lwvhp.org, or call 847-432-4732 for locations.

GREEN NOTES:



Conservation tips

1. ***Plant Native Plants.*** Most prairie and wetland plants, as well as native wildflowers, have deep root systems that absorb water and reduce stormwater runoff.
2. ***Wash Wisely.*** You'll use about 40% less water if you launder your clothes in a high-efficiency washer.
3. ***Let it sink in.*** Reduce the amount of impervious surfaces such as asphalt and concrete driveways and sidewalks by using permeable pavers on your property instead.