



# Highland Park League of Women Voters Bulletin

LWVHP BULLETIN Vol. 91, #1

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

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*Democracy is Not  
a Spectator Sport*

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## Join Us



For an evening of  
Fabulous Fun,  
Food, and  
Festivities.

Add some  
sparkle to the  
winter doldrums  
with fellow  
Leaguers and a  
special wine  
tasting treat.

Saturday, February 20, 2010  
6:00 pm  
Bella Via Pizza & Ristorante  
\$45.00 per person includes  
appetizers, entree, dessert &  
WINE!

Call Margie Weiss 847-432-9432

### PRESIDENTS' LETTER

2010 is fast unfolding and our League year well underway. Our holiday open house in December was well attended and the background into the City's finances given by Mayor Belsky was very informative. We co-sponsored a candidates' forum for U.S. 10<sup>th</sup> District Representative prior to the February primary and are now in the process of preparing for the events mentioned below, as well as for our Annual Meeting in May and the National Convention in June.

Looking forward, some important dates to remember are:

**February 20** - Winter Doldrums Dinner at Bella Via

**February 24** - Board meeting and National Program Planning at Beverly Rosenstein's

**March 6** - Women's History Month luncheon, featuring Elizabeth Brackett. Watch your email for particulars, including an invitation, which you may have received by now.

We are also planning to hold a training workshop in the near future on League study committees, their role, structure, and purpose. If you are interested in learning more, please call one of us and let us know --- Margie - 432-9432, Rose - 432-4732, Ginny - 432-7893

For our part we look forward to hearing from you and seeing you often in the weeks ahead.

*Rose, Ginny and Margie*

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### WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Eileen Berkson  
787 Stables Ct W  
Highwood 60040  
847-432-2713  
[eb.walker@comcast.net](mailto:eb.walker@comcast.net)

And National members

Annette Kleinman  
1298 Linden  
Highland Park

C. Clifford Moos  
1512 Sheridan Road  
Highland Park

CORRECTION: Please correct Carol Spielman's email address in your directory to [cspielman@comcast.net](mailto:cspielman@comcast.net)

**SUPPORT OUR CONTRIBUTORS** – New this month, Sunset Foods

**NATIONAL PROGRAM PLANNING** will be held at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on February 24, at 7:00 pm, hosted by Beverly Rosenstein, 2531 Augusta Way. Here is your opportunity to help shape the direction of LWVUS for the next two years. On what issues should we take action? Do we need a new study, or an update of an existing study? Let us hear from you!

***Save the Date***

Our annual meeting will be here before we know it, specifically on Saturday, May 1, at the Birchwood Club. The business portion helps direct us in the coming year and the luncheon is always delicious. We encourage all members to join us. In the afternoon, our featured speaker, Jane Conway, Executive Director of the Highland Park Library will talk about the future of libraries, what they might look like, entitled "**Libraries: Cover to Cover.**"

We are also on the lookout for members interested in helping to shape our league future to join the board of directors. If you would like to be more involved, or have someone to suggest, please contact Judy Miller, nominating committee chair at 847-831-1790

**OBSERVERS REPORTS****SCHOOLS** - Alyssa Knobel

On December 17, 2007, the North Shore School District Board of Education adopted a plan to place incoming military dependents' children at Red Oak, Wayne Thomas and Oak Terrace elementary schools, Edgewood Middle School and Northwood Junior High. Now in its second year of implementation, the district administration has undertaken a plan assessment and review (PAR) of the implementation.

The PAR report, originally scheduled to be presented to the Board of Education in February 2010, has been rescheduled to **March 16** due to the press of other issues, including contract negotiations, budgetary issues and the district's strategic planning initiative. The rescheduling will allow for a more thorough review and analysis of the PAR report's data and its impact on the district's schools.

**PARK DISTRICT** – Peggy Malecki

Remember our beaches and ravines study many years ago? Finally...Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Open Space and Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program has awarded a grant of \$400,000 to the Park District of Highland Park. The grant will help enhance recreational facilities and provide ravine and bluff improvements at Rosewood Beach. The plan is to build a new pavilion with restrooms, showers, changing areas and a food concession. Access to the beach will be improved by reconstructing the 1930s ravine trail, and degraded shoreline areas will be improved.

**... BE COUNTED**

A ten question census form will be delivered to all residents beginning mid-March. Your participation is required by law; your information is protected under federal law. IT IS CONFIDENTIAL! This data is used to distribute congressional seats and to distribute federal funds to local, state and tribal governments for community services, education, road rehabilitation, public transportation and more.

Illinois league members have been asked to join Complete Count Committees in their areas, so help get out the word, especially to hard to reach communities. More information is on the Census website: [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov). Contact Ginny Schulte to help, 847-432-7893.

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON HONORS WOMEN IN JOURNALISM****Saturday, March 6, 2010**

11:45 a.m. Reception • 12:15 p.m. Luncheon • 1:00 p.m. Speaker

*Location:* The Glen Club, 2901 West Lake Ave. Glenview

Cost \$38.00

Speaker Elizabeth Brackett is a correspondent and substitute host of ChicagoTonight and also covers politics and urban problems for PBS The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer. She received a Peabody Award for her coverage of the 1988 presidential campaign, two Midwest Emmy Awards, and two Peter Lisagor Awards for Business Journalism. She is the author of 2009's, *Pay to Play: How Rod Blagojevich Turned Political Corruption into a National Sideshow*.

RSVP by March 1 to Judy Elsass - 2117 Harrison St. Evanston, IL 60201  
Please bring non-perishable food items or paper goods for a local Food Pantry.

## Help us Reform Illinois Redistricting

Join our petition drive to put the Fair Map Amendment on the November Ballot

Here is another state-wide league effort. LWVIL is asking us to help get 500,000 signatures by April 1, which will place an amendment to the Constitution on the November ballot. We all know legislative districts are now not the most fair and equitable, drawn behind closed doors to ensure the reelection of the favored and the elimination of those who may have incurred displeasure. This amendment would create an independent commission to draw a map with compact and equitable boundaries, all under the public eye.

We need help collecting signatures. Please call Ginny Schulte at 847-432-7893 or email [ginnyschulte@comcast.net](mailto:ginnyschulte@comcast.net). for more info and petitions. It's so easy to take petitions to your bridge and book clubs, cocktail parties, anywhere friends gather. Signers must be registered voters. And they're just signing to allow the amendment on the ballot, not for or against it.

### The problem under the existing process:

- Illinois legislators create their own legislative districts behind closed doors.
- Either the Democrats or the Republicans gain full control by a hat drawing.
- Districts are drawn to protect incumbents of the winning party.

### The solution which the Fair Map Amendment offers:

- Legislative districts would be drawn by an independent commission.
- Maps would be drawn in an open and transparent process, with public input.
- Specific criteria would be used to make the process fairer to all.

### What you can do to support the Fair Map Amendment:

- Sign the petition to put the amendment on the November ballot.
- Gain more signatures by circulating a petition. Download petitions and instructions. <http://www.ilfairmap.com/> and tell others about the Fair Map Amendment.

## LWV LAKE COUNTY - PRIMARY EVENTS

In January 2010, the League of Women Voters of Lake County hosted three successful candidate forums covering 6 races at 3 levels of government (federal, state and county) with a variety of co-sponsoring organizations. The locations also were varied: Grayslake, Vernon Hills, and North Chicago. Our adaptability keeps our League members busy!

On Sunday, January, 10, we, the Daily Herald, and Grayslake Community High School District 127 hosted a forum for candidates running for the 8th Congressional District and for the 62nd State Representative. All 6 Republican candidates in the 8<sup>th</sup> participated. For the 62nd State Representative race, both Republican candidates, Sandy Cole, incumbent, and Paul Mitchell, attended. The Social Studies teachers and Grayslake High School administrators were excited about this learning experience for their Advanced Placement Government and Honors students. Four students acted as co-moderators with Joan Kaltsas (LWV-LFLB). Many students volunteered to make this a very successful forum. The auditorium was filled with students, parents, teachers, and residents.

On Sunday, Jan. 17, the League and co-sponsor the Daily Herald held a forum at the Laschen Community Center in Vernon Hills. A welcome statement was given by Pete Nenni, Lake County Editor of the Daily Herald. All candidates for 59th District State Representative were in attendance. Once again, Joan Kaltsas (LF-LB) moderated.

The Honorable Margaret Mullen gave a brief presentation on the courts in Lake County and qualities to consider when voting for judges. Six candidates for judgeships each gave a brief statement on his/her qualifications and why they were seeking the office. Republican candidates for the Appellate Court, Second District were Ann B. Jorgensen and Mary S. Schostak. Democratic candidates for 19th Circuit, 4th Subcircuit candidates were Mark Levitt, Christopher M. Kennedy, Jeremy Cowen Schwartz and Dwayne Douglas.

The Village of Vernon Hills videotaped the forum and showed the program until Election Day on its public access channel. Buffalo Grove, Lincolnshire, and Lake Forest also showed the program on their public access channels.

On Sunday Jan. 24, the third forum was held at the Greenbelt Cultural Center in North Chicago. The races were for the 60th State Representative and Lake County Sheriff. The League had worked previously with the NAACP and Waukegan Leadership Council and asked both organizations to co-sponsor this forum. There were no Republicans on the ballot. John Kremptotic and Douglas Roberts, candidates for Lake County Sheriff, attended. The winner in the primary will run against Mark Curran, Republican incumbent, in the general election in November.

Judy Hoffman, (LWV-EV) not only moderated the forum, but also made brief presentations about the Census Complete Count and the Fair Map Amendment petition. As the State League had clarified its position regarding the Fair Map redistricting petitions, LWV-LC volunteers were able to gather signatures at the forum.

We are looking forward to the fall!

Mary Matthews, Lake Co. LWV

## PHONATHON

Beginning in mid-March, we will begin calling you, our members for the annual LWVIL phonathon. The state league plays an important role in our activities. Contributions can be made to the Ed Fund (voter service and education and is tax deductible) or the general fund (advocacy activities), both of which are important to our success. Our league will receive a percentage of the funds we raise, so when you are called, please be as generous as you can. Contact one of us if you would like to join in the calling. It's fun!

## HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY LWV

Ninety years ago, Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed a League of Women Voters to "finish the fight" and work to end all discrimination against women. And so the League of Women Voters was founded on Valentine's Day in 1920, six months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Today, we remain a grassroots organization with more than 150,000 members and supporters and 850 Leagues throughout all 50 states. Though the League is known widely for our voter education efforts, we've also brought our expertise to critical issues such as health care reform, global climate change and many others.

As we enter into a new year, we know that the League will continue to do what it has been trusted to do for more than 90 years:

- Discuss the important issues;
- Ask the difficult questions;
- Demand accountability from our government.

And every one of our critical 2010 initiatives will **give citizens a greater voice** – in the upcoming census, the 2010 elections, the next round of redistricting and more.

The League of Women Voters is the organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement, and this year, on our 90th Anniversary, we hope you will stand with us in this work.

*Mary Wilson, president LWVUS*

## CALENDAR

February 20	Doldrums Dinner – Bella Via
February 24	Board meeting, National Program Planning—Beverly Rosenstein
March 6	Women’s History Month Luncheon – The Glen Club
March 24	Board meeting – Sue Wieseneck
April 1	Census and Fair Map Amendments due
April 28	Board meeting – Rose Feder
May 1	Annual meeting – Birchwood Club

**MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS**