



Highland Park League of Women Voters **BULLETIN**

LWVHP BULLETIN

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

***Democracy is Not
a Spectator Sport***

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2ND ANNUAL FESTIVE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

For League Members, Friends and Family

DELICIOUS DESSERTS, HOLIDAY CHEER,

AND

**Conversation with Candidates for
Mayor of Highland Park**

WHERE

Margie Weiss

260 Whistler Road, Apt. 2A

WHEN

Wednesday, December 15

7:15 p.m.

R.S.V.P

Margie Weiss 847-432-9432

Rose Feder 847-432-4732



HIGHLAND PARK LEAGUE



PRESIDENTS' LETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

It's hard to believe but 2010 is almost over and the busy holiday season is upon us! We hope you and your friends will take a needed break from holiday preparations and join us for our Second Annual Holiday Open House the evening of Wednesday, December 15th. Along with delicious desserts and holiday cheer will be an informal conversation with candidates for Mayor of Highland Park. And you thought the elections were over! Watch for your invitation in the mail but do set the date aside now before your calendar gets filled.

Occasionally we make you aware of programs and events that other Leagues in our area are offering that we feel are worthwhile and interesting. One such program is being offered by the Wilmette League as part of their series related to "What is the (ideal) role of government?" The first event on November 18th is described on page 5. If you would like to arrange a ride to any program outside of Highland Park, or within, please call either of us.

If you haven't sent in your dues yet for the 2010-2011 year, please take a moment now to do so. Individual dues are \$65 payable to LWVHP and sent to LWVHP, P.O. Box 396, HP, or payable online at www.lwvhp.org.

The Board is planning some exciting programs to break up the winter doldrums as we move into spring. Please let us hear your ideas, too, as we look forward to seeing you soon and often.

We wish you a delicious Thanksgiving and we hope to be able to extend further holiday greetings when we see you at the Holiday Open House on December 15th.

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.***



CITY BUDGET STUDY COMMITTEE

Imagine for a moment that the parameters upon which you ran your life (the suppositions in terms of income stream, living expenses, health) were changed into something for which you had not prepared. How would your decision making apparatus change, or would it? If you had a decision making matrix in place that looked at the big picture and what if's, would your decisions be less difficult and less impactful to your lifestyle?

The Highland Park Budget Study is attempting to answer these questions, by examining the City's applied methodology for making budget decisions. Do they in fact have one? What does it consist of and who ultimately decides what criteria to include and consider.

If they do not, we will endeavor to construct what we believe to be an appropriate and reasonable set of guidelines, that take into account big picture considerations (economic cycles) as well as local considerations (fulfilling City mandates).

Our committee currently is small but hopefully mighty! We will take whatever time necessary to have an end product that is thoughtful and thought provoking. A best case scenario would have the City of Highland Park incorporating some or all of our suggestions. If you would be interested in joining the committee, please contact Sharon Narrod at Baker1139@aol.com

HIGHLAND PARK LEAGUE

League Reaction

The letter below, entitled "Secret Money Has No Place in Elections", was published in the Highland Park News on October 21 2010.

It's just wrong. Secret campaign cash should have no place in our American democracy. But now we are seeing huge sums of money from secret sources going into campaign advertising, much of it the negative advertising that poisons the airways.

Special interests are spending millions and millions of dollars in this election and it threatens to drown out the voices of individual voters. And because of changes in the law, there are no disclosure requirements – even foreign government corporations could be funding these ads.

The League of Women Voters has been calling attention to secret money being spent on political advertising for months, but the U.S. Senate has refused to act to require disclosure, even after the House of Representatives passed a strong disclosure bill.

Now we are seeing the largest campaign expenditures in history, even as organizations accept tens of thousands of dollars from both American and foreign corporations. Essentially, these organizations are functioning as Political Action Committees but without having to follow the laws requiring disclosure of their donors. It should come as no surprise that they lobbied against the DISCLOSE Act in Congress, which would have stopped manipulation of elections by fly-by-night anonymous hit groups, and prevented the infusion of undercover expenditures.

These activities are detrimental to our democracy. Voters deserve to know who is paying for election advertising. The League of Women Voters calls on all candidates to disavow secret advertising and asks our local media outlets not to accept unless the names of the true donors are made public.

Margie Weiss, Rose Feder Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Highland Park



***Congratulations to Judy Johnston for her re-election
as President of
the League of Women Voters of Lake Michigan!***

LOCAL NEWS

Wilmette Event

The League of Women Voters of Wilmette is pleased to present the first in a series of programs that will address the question: ***What is the (ideal) role of government?*** This first program will focus on government's capacity for solving trenchant social problems.

SOLVING SOCIAL PROBLEMS: The Case for a More Powerful Presidency

A talk given by

WILLIAM G. HOWELL, PhD

Sydney Stein Professor in American Politics Harris School,

Department of Political Science and the College

The University of Chicago

Thursday, November 18, 2010

7:00 pm

The Wilmette Public Library

William Howell is the Sydney Stein Professor in American Politics in the Harris School, co-director of the Program on Political Institutions, and a professor in the Department of Political Science and the College of the University of Chicago. He has written widely on separation-of-powers issues and American political institutions, especially the presidency.

Before coming to the Harris School, Howell taught in the government department at Harvard University and the political science department at the University of Wisconsin. In 2000, he received a PhD in political science from Stanford University.

LAKE MICHIGAN LWV

LAKE MICHIGAN LWV 44th ANNUAL MEETING

The Lake Michigan League of Women Voters held its annual meeting in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, on October 8 & 9, 2010. Attending the meeting were league members and Lake Michigan advocates from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Activities included tours of Point Beach Energy Center located next to the Two Rivers Nuclear Power plant and the Woodland Dunes and Nature Center, 1200 acres of forested ridges and habitat.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Phillip Moy, Invasive Species Specialist with the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, was the Fisheries Biologist for the Chicago District Army Corps of Engineers and remains Co-Chair of the Dispersal Barrier Advisory Panel. He covered the history and invasive movement of the Asian Carp, the Chicago River electric barrier systems, the recent Rotenone poisoning techniques, and current DNA sampling. He then spoke of the need for more permanent, long-term solutions to the problems of invasive species in the Great Lakes. A faster identification-system of DNA sampling and an ecological separation of the Calumet River and storm and wastewater are some of the challenges, as well as the commercial and recreational navigation systems that are a part of the waterway.

Saturday luncheon speaker, Jim Knickelbine, Executive Director of Woodland Dunes and Nature Center in Two Rivers is responsible for the management of that 1,200 acre nature preserve. He explained the sponge effect of wetlands in removing 60% of metal, 90% of nitrogen and 50% of phosphorus from the water.

The business part of the meeting included the election of officers for the next two years (Judy Johnston of the Highland Park league was elected president) and updating the Areas of Emphasis for 2010-2011, which are:

- Work to implement Great Lakes Restoration bills as established at the Great Lakes Restoration Conference, 2009: restore water quality, prevent and control invasive species, clean up toxic pollution, mitigate the impacts of global warming on the Great Lakes.
- Work to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) Protection and Restoration Strategy.
- Support efforts to reduce the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers and promote the use of non-toxic alternatives.
- Advocate for water conservation and resource protection to complete the requirements of the Great Lakes Compact and monitor its implementation .
- Monitor the progress of the Review of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, with particular attention to pharmaceuticals
- Address permitted discharges into the Great Lakes with a goal to reducing the amount of pollutants so discharged.



LEAGUE CALENDAR

NOVEMBER	17	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
DECEMBER	15	7:15 pm	2 nd Annual Holiday Open House Fort Sheridan Home of Margie Weiss
JANUARY	26	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
FEBRUARY	5		LWVIL Issues Briefing Sessions (various times)
	10	7:00pm	Local Program Planning Meeting
	23	7:00pm	Board Meeting and State Program Planning

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

GREEN NOTES:



WAKE UP TO FOOD WASTE

The holidays are a great time to pay attention not only to where your food originates, but what gets wasted. Both aspects are big contributors to climate change. The food that is wasted results in the production of methane gas, reported in a British study to be one of the biggest culprits responsible for global warming. We have decided on a card on our table to call attention to this awareness. Ours reads as follows:

Food Waste greatly contributes to GLOBAL WARMING. Everyone can help. Please, take as much as you will enjoy eating and help eliminate Food Waste.

