



# Highland Park League of Women Voters Bulletin

LWVHP BULLETIN Vol. 80, #4

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

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## CONTENTS

### LOCAL NEWS

- New Member's Coffee
- League Goes Green
- Thanks to Sponsors
- President's Message
- National Convention
- Ballot Issues
- 60035
- **IN MEMORIAM**
- Given' Up the Bottle

### STATE & REGIONAL NEWS

- County Forum
- LMILO
- Forest Preserves
- Con-con
- TV's & Landfills

### NATIONAL NEWS

- LWVUS
- Voter Registration
- Beach Clean-Up
- From the Nat. Prez
- Calendar

## NEW MEMBERS COFFEE

**October 29th, 7:15 p.m.,  
at the beautiful home of Margie Weiss, Ft. Sheridan**

***WELCOME and get to know our new members:***

**Janet Buckstein, Deerfield  
Jane Coleman, Highland Park  
Rivia Greenberg, Highland Park  
Carolyn Klapper, Highwood**

Highland Park League of Women Voters is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> year in a very exciting and important election year. Let's ensure another 80 years by welcoming new members. Invite your friends and bring prospective members.

Remember, informed citizens build strong communities.

Call Sue Weiseneck for more info.

## THE LEAGUE IS GOING GREEN

It is somehow fitting that during this, our 80<sup>th</sup> year, we inaugurate our  
*ELECTRONIC LWVHP BULLETIN.*

We join the many leagues and other organizations who have converted to this medium from paper. The energy savings, materials and cost savings are obvious. In addition, we are hoping to be more timely with our conversations with you. Therefore, it is very important that we have your current email address.

Our **email** is **info@lwvhp.org** for your conversations with us.

Visit our **website** **www.lwvhp.org** for past Bulletins and current information.

## WE THANK OUR SPONSORS

In this new format, we will no longer have ads that in the past have helped to support our work. We have instead instituted tiered contribution levels and will list those businesses and individuals who continue to support our limited mailings, education and information efforts. As before, we ask that you support and patronize these businesses that are so essential to our efforts.

### **To date, our contributors are:**

<b>Leader</b>	Silberstein Orthodontics, PC
<b>Supporter</b>	The Cabinet Shop Nancy S. Funk, CPA Keyth Security Systems
<b>Contributor</b>	Ken's Quick Print Menoni & Mecogni Sunset Foods

## CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

### AUGUST 2008

Our League continues to be one of the most active in the State, as we begin our 81<sup>st</sup> year. Facing upcoming important elections, we offer several notable events that illustrate our mandate to focus on an informed electorate.

**Our Opening Meeting on September 9**, organized by Committee Chair Beverly Rosenstein, presents an unbiased view-- and an opportunity to be heard-- on three important issues that relate to our community before the election on November 4.

On October 30, after extensive study of issues and candidates, and under the aegis of Voter Registration Chair Gail Feiger Brown, the students in Highland Park will vote in a simulated election, the **Illinois Student Vote** that is sponsored by LWVIL.

Candidates forums are among the things we do best and are heavily attended. Led by Vice-President and Voters Service Chair Faye Grossman on **October 5**, together with the Leagues of Deerfield, Glencoe and Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, we have planned a **Candidates Forum** for the 58<sup>th</sup> District. On **October 19**, we and the other involved Leagues, are co-sponsoring a Candidates Forum for the election in the 10th District.

Join us for a social evening on **October 29 at our Membership Coffee**, so that we can personally greet you, meet you, thank you and tell you more about the doings of our League. Perhaps you would like to bring along a friend or neighbor who is interested in becoming involved in issues outside of the home -- in the schools, in the community, statewide and nationally -- where she/he can study issues, freely express opinions and make a difference.

This year our League members have been cited for Mayoral Proclamations in recognition of our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and regarding Marjie Ettlenger's impact on our city's environmental issues. Please join us at the **City Council meeting on Monday, September 22, 7:15 PM**, as we receive a third Proclamation from our city in appreciation of our role in the Illinois Student Vote event.

By this time, we hope you have read the glowing article about our League published in the new fall issue of the magazine **60035**, pages 38-41, published by the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce and the City of Highland Park. Researched and beautifully written by former League president Linda Kellough, the article delineates the successful historical and current community involvement, as well as the development of skills, that our members have experienced throughout eight decades. The spirit of camaraderie, the study the League undertakes before coming to a position, the hearty discussions of weighty ideas, and, of course, the fun of expressing -- and of listening to-- divergent opinions- all make being an active Leaguer so worthwhile.

The support of our members is vital to sustaining the vibrancy of our League. We are planning many more projects, some with other local Leagues, and hope you will continue to join us in whatever piques your interest. With your membership you connect with local, state and national leagues to see what's happening. You also connect with your neighbors while having a terrific time! We look forward to seeing you at our varied events.

ELAINE AND LILA

## NOTES FROM LWVUS CONVENTION JUNE 13-17, 2008, PORTLAND, OREGON by Lila Trotsky

More than 924 delegates from 49 states attended the **48<sup>th</sup> Biennial Nation Convention**. It was an inspiring and empowering event as delegates debated and discussed many of the Nation's critical issues. Delegates set the LWVUS program agenda for the next two years. Some of the highlights voted on were:

- To retain all current LWVUS positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy; and to amend the Principles by adding: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial."
- To adopt a Health Care program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to advocate for health care.
- To adopt a "Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change" as an amendment to the proposed program.
- To consider concurrence with the following position on redistricting: "The LWVUS believes that legislative and congressional redistricting should afford the people a meaningful choice in electing their representatives and holding the government accountable, and that the processes through which redistricting is accomplished should be efficient, adequately funded, based on well-defined criteria, subject to a reasonable and effective timetable, and open to public scrutiny. The League believes that redistricting plans for congressional districts and state legislative bodies must comply with Federal, Constitutional, Voting Rights Act and other legal requirements, particularly those that require every district within a state to have equal population and that protect the voting strength of minority groups and should meet the following requirements and principles: be composed of contiguous districts, and promote partisan fairness. The League believes that redistricting plans should be developed by commissions or other entities that are designed to operate in a nonpartisan manner. The League also believes that redistricting of congressional and state legislative districts should be conducted only once during each decade following the federal census."

### **Direction to the Board:**

- The League should look into, once again, moderating the upcoming Presidential election.
- To adopt a PMP rate of \$28.00 for FY 2008-2009; and a PMP rate of \$29.20 for FY 2009-2010.

### **Additional facts and highlights of the Convention:**

For the first time in the League's history, a man was elected as a director of the LWVUS Board.

There was a Climate Change panel discussion; remarks by former Oregon Governors Barbara Roberts and John Kitzhaber, MD; and a banquet address by former Colorado Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Love Kouris. The Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, Paul J. De Muniz, and Mary McQueen, President, National Center for State Courts, spoke on the movement to weaken our courts.

"We are at the table and we are changing the menu." Mary G. Wilson, President/Chair

**Ed. Note:** The Lake Michigan Interleague Organization held a caucus on Great Lake Issues that was attended by members from over 50 leagues and generated plans for water related coalitions.

# LOCAL NEWS

## COMMUNITY FORUM FOCUS ON BALLOT ISSUES

Beverly Rosenstein

Three issues to be decided on the November ballot will be discussed at the League of Women Voters of Highland Park Community Forum. Open to the public at no charge, the Forum will be held at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 9, at the Highland Park Country Club.**

Paula Lawson, President of the LWV Illinois will discuss the referendum for a state constitutional convention and the reasons the state League opposes this proposal.

Following discussion on this item, the Park District of Highland Park will present their **Lakefront Plan** and its funding. The third referendum item for discussion will be the Lake County Forest Preserve District bond proposal for land acquisition and development funding.

The local Park District and the Forest Preserve District proposals are neither endorsed nor opposed by the League, but are being presented as a League community education service. In each case, the discussions will be open to questions from the public. The discussions will be moderated by former local League president, Betsy Lassar.

Bring your friends, neighbors, ideas & questions

## SEE US IN 60035

Nancie Blatt

**Kudos to Linda Kellough**, former League president, for writing a glowing article about our League that is both interesting and inspirational. Don't miss reading this beautifully written and researched feature in the new fall issue of the magazine **60035**, pages 38-41, published by the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce and the City of Highland Park.

In addition to current community involvement, Linda writes about the League's history and legacy, as well as the spirit of camaraderie, the belief in the power of well-crafted public policy and the steps taken to reach informed advocacy and action. Thanks, Linda for expressing the joy and pride we all feel in being a League member.

## IN MEMORIAM

With great sadness, we report the death of **Lois Altman**. Lois was a former board member, long time leaguer, activist, world traveler and compassionate friend. We will miss her sage counsel, upbeat attitude and wry humor.

Our condolences go to another active leaguer and board member Beverly Rosenstein and her family on the recent death of her husband, **David Rosenstein**.

## OUR NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AT WORK

Did you know that the lifecycle energy cost of a bottle of water is equivalent to filling up a quarter of each disposable bottle with oil? Why produce nearly a million tons of plastic to cart billions of gallons of water all over the country when clean, virtually free water flows right into our homes? And if you say it's because of taste or other aesthetic issue, there are a variety of filters that can assist you in fixing those challenges—a much more eco - and wallet-friendly solution than buying disposable bottles of water.

## Top Five Reasons to Give Up Bottled Water

5. Disposable plastic water bottles are not meant for multiple uses. The #1 polyethylene terephthalate (PET) is fine for a single use, but reuse can lead to chemical leaching of toxins such as DEHA, a known carcinogen, and benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP), a potential hormone disrupter.

4. Making bottles to meet Americans' demand for bottled water requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually, enough to fuel some 100,000 cars for a year. (NY Times).

3. Bottled water is expensive! Drinking the recommended daily amount of water using bottled water can cost an average of \$1,400 per year; drinking the same amount from the tap costs around 49 cents for the year. (NY Times)

2. Your tap water is fine to drink. Ninety percent of tap water in the U.S. meets or exceeds EPA standards for drinking water.

1. **At least 40 percent of bottled water is tap water** anyway. You are paying a huge premium on water that you could have just gotten from your tap in the first place. (National Resources Defense Council)

# STATE & REGIONAL NEWS

## COUNTY FORUM

On **Sunday, September 28, 2:00 pm** – Warren Newport Library, Gurnee, – the Lake County LWV will co-sponsor a forum for these countywide offices. We too seldom have an opportunity to hear and question the candidates for these positions, so spread the word and come on out.

### Circuit Court Clerk:

Cynthia Prurim Haran (D) v. Sally Coffelt (R - Incumbent)

### Coroner:

Richard Keller (D - Incumbent) v. Michael Oster (R)

### State's Attorney:

Michael Jacobs (D) v. Michael Waller (R - Incumbent)

### Recorder of Deeds:

Mary Ellen Vanderverter, (D-Incumbent) unopposed.

### Judge 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit, Judgeship A, Subcircuit 1:

George Bridges (R) v. Jay Ukena (D)

### Judge 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit, Judgeship A, Subcircuit 2:

Valerie Ceckowski (R) v. David S. Weinstein (D)

Judges will be asked to make a statement but will not be asked any questions

## LMILO ANNUAL MEETING

### OCTOBER 10 & 11, 2008, Chesterton, Indiana

**The Lake Michigan Interleague Organization** (LMILO) was formed in 1966 in Highland Park, by area Leaguers who wanted to focus on the serious problems facing Lake Michigan at the time. Since Lake Michigan is a part of the Great Lakes system and not an isolated entity, the organization has expanded its focus to include all of the Great Lakes and to work in coalition with other like-minded organizations to educate the public and our legislators on the urgent needs of all the Lakes.

This year's meeting will be held at the **Hilton Garden Inn in Chesterton, Indiana**. Tours will include the Port of Indiana and a steel mill. Speakers will cover the topics of toxic pollution in the Lakes, with a panel discussing "Government, Business and the Environmental Community: Working Together for the Great Lakes."

Major items of business include the election of officers and a proposed by-laws amendment to change the name to Lake Michigan League of Women Voters.

All are invited, so **call Judy Johnston**, LMILO co-president, **at 847/433-9375** if you would like more information.

## LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE REFERENDUM

**Should the Forest Preserve District borrow \$185 million** for future land purchases and the development of its preserves? Forest district officials said the loan, if approved, would offset an anticipated tax-rate reduction. Older bonds that were used for land buys and improvements are being retired, and the amount of property taxes for bond and interest payments is scheduled to drop.

Supporters of the proposal said the planned rate reduction wouldn't have much of a real-world impact on residents' tax bills.

## ANOTHER CHANCE FOR CON CON INFO

In case you miss our program on the Constitutional Convention question, or if you want to learn more, you are invited to the LWV of LF/LB program, "Be an Informed Voter in the November Election on Con Con," at **7 pm Tuesday, October 7, at the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Senior Center**, Dickenson Hall, 100 East Old Mill Road, Lake Forest. **David Kohn Public Relations Director for the Union League Club of Chicago**, will be the speaker.

Excerpted from USA Today

## GARRETT'S BILL CAN KEEP OLD TVs OUT OF LANDFILLS

As the switch to digital TV nears, concern about old TVs piling up in landfills has prompted state and local governments to develop recycling programs.

New York City and 11 states have passed laws, including four this year, to set up television recycling programs paid for by manufacturers, according to the **Electronics TakeBack Coalition**, an alliance of non-profit groups that promote responsible recycling. And California has a law that requires people to pay for TV recycling.

*The TV switch helped win support this year for a bill that requires manufacturers to pay for the recycling of TVs and computers*, said the **bill's sponsor, 29<sup>th</sup> District State Senator, Susan Garrett**. It passed the Legislature last month, and the governor is expected to sign it.

## NEWS FROM LWVUS

### COAL-BURNING POWER PLANT MORATORIUM

The League of Women Voters believes that there must be immediate and aggressive action to halt climate change. **Coal is the single largest source of global warming pollution in the U.S.**, with power plants responsible for 33 percent of carbon dioxide emissions. That is why the League is taking a nationwide stand against new construction of coal-fired electric power plants.

Burning more coal is too big a risk for too many people. Because of this pollution, we already face increasingly severe heat waves and droughts, intensifying hurricanes and floods, disappearing glaciers and more wildfires. If left unchecked, the effects will be catastrophic for our country and our planet.

Today, there is no environmentally sound use of coal. Many hope that carbon dioxide can be captured and stored underground but this technology has never been demonstrated on a commercial scale.

Instead of coal, we must look to clean energy alternatives. Many states are making great strides in energy conservation and efficiency, and California has been able to keep per capita energy consumption essentially constant for three decades while enjoying a growing economy. Wind and solar power are also ready to make large contributions to economic growth.

The League carefully examined many facets of energy policy before taking its stand. Now it is time to stop building more coal-fired power plants. We support strong action in Congress to stop global climate change, but the planet can't wait. We must protect future generations, and we must protect ourselves, against the pollution that is contaminating our world.

### LWVUS HEALTH CARE EDUCATION TASK FORCE

The LWVUS Board has approved formation of a Health Care Education Task Force to initiate the Health Care Education project, which was approved by delegates to Convention 2008. Apply for membership on this Task Force on the LWVUS website.

## NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE STUDY

Delegates at Convention 2008 adopted a study of the feasibility of using the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact among the states as a method for electing the president. A study committee has been formed and will produce background materials to be posted on the LWVUS Web site in the next few months.

As the NPV Study Committee proceeds with its work, the LWVUS will provide consensus material to the Leagues. Because the study will be proceeding on a compressed schedule, the deadline for submitting consensus forms will be May 1, 2009.

## MORE LOCAL NEWS

### VOTER REGISTRATION

Gail Brown, Voter service

Let your friends, neighbors and acquaintances know that the League of Women Voters of Highland Park will be registering voters at the Highland Park Public Library in the front lobby of the library on the following dates:

Thursdays, September 11, 18 & 25: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Sundays, September 14, 21, & 28, and October 5: 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Monday, October 6: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

For information or to help register, **email me at g.f.brown@comcast.net**, or call me at home at **847-433-2093**.

### LEAGUERS CLEAN BEACHES

**On Saturday, September 20**, Anne Bassi, Marjie Ettlinger, Judy Johnston, Peggy Malecki and Charla Reinganum will be leading teams of volunteers as part of the annual **International Coastal Cleanup** effort. In 2007, 4,306 volunteers removed more than 20,371 pounds of trash from beaches in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin alone. Worldwide, the numbers are astounding.

Under the auspices of the **Alliance for the Great Lakes**, the group will tackle the beaches at Ft. Sheridan, Park Avenue and Ravine Drive. It's a great opportunity to spend a fun morning with family and friends, while making a real difference to our largest source of fresh water. So contact one of the above if you can help.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### FROM LWVUS PRESIDENT, MARY WILSON

Many of the delegates at the **LWVUS Convention** in June signed a petition requesting that I take steps to attempt to **return the League of Women Voters to a role in the Presidential debates**.

As I indicated at Convention, I share your interest in restoring such a role for the League. To that end, I had on June 10 sent letters to each of the presumptive nominees of the two major parties offering the auspices of the League to them in presenting presidential debates, town halls or forums to the American voting public. At the time of the LWVUS Convention we had no response to the letters from either candidate despite having made specific contact with the persons we had been told by the campaigns were the appropriate staff persons to contact about debates.

Let me indicate that LWVUS had made efforts throughout the last year to reach out to the Commission on Presidential Debates in order to offer the services of the League. This included conversations last year between LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate and the Commission's Executive Director. **On July 7, 2008, I wrote to the Commission on Presidential Debates** offering to assist them in ensuring that the general election debates remain true to their overall goal: to educate voters on the candidates running for President and Vice President and their positions on the critical issues facing our nation.

In the spirit with which you asked that I pursue all avenues, Nancy Tate and I scheduled a meeting with CPD Executive Director Janet Brown on July 30. We had a cordial discussion about the debates the CPD would be holding and began to explore ways that the League might fit into the CPD process.

In general we discussed how the League can and always has educated the public about how to listen to debates. We also explored the need for the dialogue sparked by debates to continue among voters during the period between the three debates and whether there might be a role the League could play in that regard. Ms. Brown told us that the CPD intended to launch a web-based project as a way to keep that dialogue flowing.

The next week the CPD announced a partnership with MySpace.com to create a new website, MyDebates.org, "to enhance the educational value of the televised debates, engage new audiences, and facilitate ongoing online conversation throughout the general election period." The details have not yet been announced. When they are, I will ask Nancy Tate to follow up with Ms. Brown to further explore ways the League might work with this new partnership on voter education.

Because I wanted to report to you more fully about our overtures in regard to the debates, on August 11 I sent a second letter to the presumptive nominees of the major parties asking for direct responses to our previous offer. LWVUS staff contacted the appropriate campaign staff about this matter. In response we received courteous responses from both the McCain and Obama campaigns declining our offer.

Although I will continue to explore ways to work with the CPD, I am sorry to report that at this time I see no opportunity for the League to have meaningful direct involvement in the presidential debates.



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## LEAGUE CALENDAR

### September

9	7:00 pm	Opening Meeting - HP Country Club
10	7:00 pm	Board Meeting – Ginny Schulte
22	7:15 pm	City Council Meeting: Presentation of Mayoral Proclamation for Illinois Student Vote
28	2:00 pm	Candidates Forum, County offices – Warren Newport Library, Gurnee

### October

5	2:00 pm	Candidates Forum, 58th District, Deerfield Senior Center
10 & 11		LMILO annual meeting – Chesterton, IN
15	7:00 pm	Board Meeting - Charla Reinganum
19	2:00 pm	Candidates Forum, 10th District, Deerfield High School
29	7:15 pm	Membership Coffee - Margie Weiss
30		Illinois Student Vote - Local Schools

### November

4		National Election Day
12	7:00 pm	Board Meeting-Gail Feiger Brown
13		League Lobby Day, Springfield

Call **847-432-4732** or email **info@lwwhp.org** to carpool to any of these events.

If you would like more information about the LMILO or LWVLC meetings, call Judy Johnston at 847-433-9375.

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