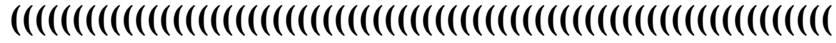


# SHOP TALK

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of ELMHURST, ILLINOIS



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LWV of Elmhurst website - [www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org)



## February Calendar

Thursday, February 1, 9:15 a.m. At the home of Kay Gavin	<b>Morning Consensus Meeting on Immigration</b>
Saturday, February 3, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Loyola University Law Center	<b>LWVIL Issues Briefing</b> 25 East Pearson, Chicago
Wednesday, February 7, 1 p.m. At the home of Gina Brigham	<b>Afternoon Consensus Meeting on Immigration</b>
Saturday, February 10, 9 a.m. At the home of Laura Kratz	<b>Board Meeting</b>
Thursday, February 15, 7 p.m. At the home of Laura Kratz	<b>Evening Consensus Meeting on Immigration</b>

## Candidate Forum

**Thursday, February 22, at 7 p.m.  
Bryan Middle School  
111 East Butterfield Road**

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*Save the date! Program Planning Meeting March 16. We will discuss Illinois and local League action and advocacy priorities over wine and cheese.*

## *President's Corner*

The Elmhurst League has reached 75 years, and we are still going strong! January has already been full of League activity:

Dr. James Lewis of the Institute for Metropolitan Affairs at Roosevelt University brought an enthusiastic audience up to date on immigration trends and policies at our January meeting. His presentation supplements our study material, and we will refer to it at our upcoming Immigration Consensus Meetings.

We enjoyed socializing with members and friends alike at our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon. Elmhurst actress Jenny Riddle entertained and inspired us with her impersonations of four of our most notable First Ladies – and we discovered the Board can sing! Thanks to **Lisa Landreth, Donna Blue, Barbara Swords, Connie Zillig, Jan Vanek, Gail Anderson, Mae Pearson, Jeanne Davik, Jan Dorner, and Carolyn Landwehr** who contributed to this memorable event. An added bonus: please welcome **Pat Moll** who became our newest member at the luncheon.

Preparations are underway for the April 17 elections. **Gail Anderson** and her committee, **Cheri Niewiara, Maureen Polte, Jan Dorner, Jeanne Davik, and Donna Blue** are preparing for our February 22 Candidate Forum and on-line voters guide. **Susan DeRonne** has graciously agreed to serve as our interim Voter Registrar chairman, replacing Jan Vanek, who is running for reelection. Registrars are needed for sessions at the Library and York High School. **Gerri Long and Corinne Flegg** have already registered 15 new student voters at Willowbrook High School and will return there soon.

Meanwhile, various committees are getting started on the organizational work required for our Annual Meeting in May: On February 17, **Nelly Cheng** and the Nominating Committee will start on the slate for next year's Board. Treasurer **Connie Zillig** is preparing for the Budget Committee and **Gail Anderson** will head a bylaws review. A new committee, led by **Jeanne Davik**, will be taking a look at our website and Internet policies and procedures this spring.

Being recognized for an accomplishment is always gratifying, and I am happy to report that our 2005-2006 School Finance Study and subsequent referenda support caught the attention of the State League. I have been asked to be on a panel at the February 3 Issues Briefing to talk about how we were able to transition smoothly from a general study on local school finance to a specific, and quick, study that led to consensus on and support for the school referenda on the ballot last April.

With so much going on, winter (such as it is) will fly by!

*Laura*

## Reaching Consensus on Immigration

Carolyn Landwehr

As Laura Kratz noted in her letter, we will be having consensus meetings on immigration in February. We will be having three meetings, one in the morning, one in the afternoon, and one in the evening, so that you can choose whatever time and day is most convenient for you. **We hope that most members will be able to attend one of these meetings.**

Before the League can take action, members must agree in broad terms on what they think about a program issue. Consensus -- group discussion -- is the technique most often used for reaching member agreement. Before the Consensus Meeting, members should have received and considered impartial background material on the issue.

**An Immigration Study was adopted at the last convention of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.** Since this is a state study, the consensus questions that we will be considering have to do with what we think should or should not be done on a state or local level. Dr. James Lewis, who spoke to our League in January, gave us useful information on immigration in Illinois, as well as on the national level.

The committee members, **Alice Byrne, Jeanne Davik, Joan Taylor, Milly Smith, Carolyn Landwehr, Barbara Swords, Mary Eleanor Wall, Laura Kratz, and Gail Anderson,** have studied the background material and prepared brief background information for each consensus question. (More material is available on our website.) The committee decided that the best way to distribute the consensus questions was to send them out, one question at a time, by email. We hope that receiving each question separately will give members time to consider them carefully. By the time of the first **Consensus Meeting**, everyone should have received all the questions and background material. Members without email access will receive printed copies by regular mail.

If members have not received the Consensus Question explanations, they can go to <http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/ImmigrationBackgroundConsensus.pdf> and print off all of them in one four-page document.

All League members, including committee members, may participate at only one consensus meeting (although committee members may be present at all consensus meetings). The public may not participate in the consensus. The press is not invited. Each meeting is to be conducted by a moderator. A recorder notes the key points of the discussion and the results (i.e., whether there is agreement among the members present and what that agreement is). The study committee reviews the results of each consensus meeting, looking for areas of member agreement and disagreement. The committee summarizes what the members have said and drafts a position for the LWV Board. For this Immigration Study, the local Board will send our consensus to the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

## Great Decisions

In February, the Great Decisions group, plus any other League members who want to be part of the morning Consensus Meeting, will consider the eight consensus questions given to us by the state Immigration Study Committee. Our discussion of the Middle East will be postponed to our next meeting, on March 1. **We hope to see many League members at this first Consensus Meeting, on Thursday, February 1, 9:15 a.m., at Kay Gavin's home.**



**Candidate Forum!**  
**Thursday, February 22, 7 p.m.**  
 at  
**Bryan Middle School**  
**111 West Butterfield Road**

**Be prepared for the Municipal Election on April 17, 2007!** The forum will spotlight the races for **Park Board, School Board and all Aldermanic Wards.**

Volunteers greatly appreciated for the night of the forum: 6:30 pm -9:30 pm: greeters, ushers, time keepers, and 4 post-forum small group leaders. Please contact Gail Anderson at [voterservice@lwvelmhurst.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvelmhurst.org)



**Voter Registration**  
**Susan DeRonne**

Interested in being a Voter Registrar? It is not too late to volunteer to be a Voter Registrar. Contact the DuPage County Election Commission at 630-407-5600.

We will be registering voters for the spring elections at two locations in Elmhurst prior to the April 17 elections.

We will be at the Elmhurst Public Library  
 Sunday March 11, from 1:30 to 4:30 and  
 Tuesday, March 13, from 5:30 to 8:30

Each session will be divided into two shifts.

We will also register voters at York High School on Thursday, March 8, from 10:30 to 1:30.

Please contact Susan DeRonne at [voterregistration@lwvelmhurst.org](mailto:voterregistration@lwvelmhurst.org) to volunteer.

**Membership  
Donna Blue**

Please welcome our new member and add her information to your directory: Pat Moll

**50-Year Members:** We are trying to identify anyone who has been a League member continuously for at least 50 years for special recognition. If you qualify, please let us know. Contact Donna Blue at [membership@lwvelmhurst.org](mailto:membership@lwvelmhurst.org).



**Health Care Reform  
Material provided by Health Care Reform 4 US, a network of LWV members**

The present private/public system in the U.S. is fragmented and costly. We now spend twice as much per person on health care as other industrialized countries with universal coverage while 46,000,000 U.S. citizens have no health insurance. Out of the \$2 trillion dollars currently spent on healthcare in the U.S., 31% is consumed by administrative and marketing costs. In order to extend coverage to everyone and provide comprehensive care, we must reduce the amount we now waste on administrative and marketing expenses in order to pay for universal coverage and increased benefits.

The only plan proposed so far that accomplishes that task is a universal single-payer plan, the plan model favored by the April 1993 LWVUS position, which we now describe as Improved Medicare for All. It has been estimated by the Physicians for a National Healthcare Program (PNHP) that the U.S. could achieve savings of more than \$350 billion by adopting such a plan, enough to fund comprehensive coverage for everyone without paying more than we do now.

Some facts about health care in the United States:

Over 46 million Americans are uninsured and at least that many are underinsured.

The U.S. is the only developed country that does not offer universal health coverage to its residents. Plus the U.S. has higher infant mortality and lower life expectancy rates than the other developed countries with universal coverage. (United Nations Human Development Report, 9/7/05)

In 2004, total health care spending accounted for 15.3% of the United States GDP. The average for other industrialized OEDC (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries was 8.9%. ([www.oedc.org](http://www.oedc.org))

Co-pays and deductibles continue to rise for those who have insurance. Insurance companies shift the rising cost of health care to patients.


There are more than 9 million children (one in nine) in the U.S. who are uninsured.

Health care costs are draining municipal and school budgets all over the country.

Insurance is tied to employment in the U.S. If you lose your job, you lose your insurance. Health insurance should be portable and lifelong.

Small businesses are straining to provide any coverage at all for their employees, thus making them less competitive.

Many independent contractors and family-owned business owners do without health care coverage at all for themselves or their employees due to high health care coverage costs.

 The End 