

President's Corner

As 2006 winds down, we can look back on a very full year of League activity.

Most recently, thank you to **Sally Hoffman** for so graciously opening her home for our annual Holiday Party. We all enjoyed the lively conversation, along with delicious sweets and savories. We also enjoyed a bit of friendly competition, thanks to **Jeanne Davik** whose game tested our knowledge of famous quotations.

Looking a bit further back, thank you to **Jan Vanek** for organizing our November program on the National Popular Vote initiative. Lobbyist Dan Johnson-Weinberger conducted an intriguing discussion of the proposals in the Illinois Legislature for circumventing the Electoral College.

This is also a good time to thank our Observer Corps: **Barbara Swords** (Library Board), **Mary Costello** (City Council), **Jan Dorner** (School Board), and our most recent addition to those ranks, **Meg Sullivan**, who has agreed to serve as Park Board Observer. Along with **Gail Anderson**, who filled in at Park Board, our observers do an outstanding job reporting on local governmental activities under the direction of our *Observer Reports* editor, **Jan Dorner**.

I'm also happy to note that the US Coast Guard has withdrawn its plan to create 34 gunfire training zones on the Great Lakes, as described in last month's *Shop Talk*. Their decision was based on months of meetings with community leaders and approximately 900 public comments (including ours) opposing the plan. Our main objection was to the Coast Guard's intention to use lead ammunition when testing M-240B machine guns at the offshore shooting zones. The Coast Guard is looking into "environmentally friendly alternatives to the lead ammunition" as it considers alternative plans for conducting its anti-terrorism training.

2007 is going to be a big year for our Elmhurst League, and not just because it's our 75th Anniversary. Under **Carolyn Landwehr's** chairmanship, the Immigration Study is in full force with study question summaries coming out and a presentation by Dr. James Lewis on Thursday, January 18. Then we will hold our consensus meetings on the issue and report to the Illinois League. **Gail Anderson** and her committee are already working on the February Candidate Forum and Voters Guide for the spring elections. Our Membership Chairman, **Donna Blue**, has some great ideas for attracting new members, and program Chairman **Lisa Landreth** is putting the finishing touches to the spring events.

This month, please welcome new member **Cynthia Smith-Jans**.

We are truly looking forward to our 75th Anniversary celebration on January 20. Lisa and her committee, **Connie Zillig**, **Jan Vanek**, **Barbara Swords**, and **Donna Blue** have planned a terrific event – with a surprise or two. I look forward to seeing you there!

Laura

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group will meet on Thursday, January 4, at 9:15 a.m. at Kay Gavin's home. Our topic will be **Brazil: Invented Pasts and Hoped-For Futures**. The author, Kenneth Maxwell, who has written several books on Brazil, notes that "Brazil has acted to sustain democracy in Paraguay, improved relations with Peru and has a major ongoing stake in the stability of Bolivia. In Columbia, Brazil could be an important player in any future peace negotiations. And Brazil has worked hard to retain good relationships with Venezuela, a major oil supplier to both the U.S. and Brazil, despite the fact that Venezuela under Hugo Chávez has set out to provide an alternative model that challenges the market friendly policies that Brazil and many other South American countries have pursued in recent years, policies which have been continued by Lula."



Immigration Study

Carolyn Landwehr

We continue our study of immigration with an excellent speaker for our **January general meeting**. Please plan to attend on **Thursday, January 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Elmhurst Public Library**. You are welcome to bring guests to this meeting, which brings us an expert on a topic of current interest. **Dr. James H. Lewis**, from the Institute for Metropolitan Affairs of Roosevelt University, is co-author of the *Illinois Immigration Data Book* and has spoken widely in the area on the history of immigration in the U.S. and in Illinois, and on the challenges it brings.

Please look over again the material on immigration in your October and November *Shop Talks*. These issues are available online in case you have not saved them. This month you will be receiving one by one the eight Consensus Questions and brief background material on each of them. Do read each one as it arrives and think about the topic. You can supplement this information by going to our website for more extensive material. We plan to schedule three consensus meetings in February -- morning, afternoon, and evening -- so that every member can choose to attend one that is convenient.



League of Women Voters of Elmhurst 75th Anniversary Celebration

Our 75th anniversary year kicks off with a gala luncheon at the White Pines Country Club (500 West Jefferson, Bensenville) on Saturday, January 20. The festivities begin with a social hour at 11 a.m. and lunch at noon. After lunch we will celebrate the accomplishments of our League and welcome former First Lady and League member Eleanor Roosevelt (portrayed by Elmhurst actress Jenny Riddle). Invitations, including directions to White Pines, menu choices, and RSVPs are on the way. Please RSVP by January 10 or email Lisa Landreth at program@lwvelmhurst.org if you have questions.



Membership Donna Blue

Please welcome our new member and add her information to your directory: Cynthia Smith-Jans

Who joins the League?

Women and men who want to influence policies that affect their community, state, and nation. If you know people like this, tell them about the Elmhurst League of Women Voters and how to become members!



LWV Candidate Forum Gail Anderson, Candidate Forum Chair

Elmhurst elections have been exciting the last few years and should figure to be so again this April 17, 2007. The Elmhurst LWV Candidate Forum featuring the Elmhurst Aldermanic, School Board and Park Board candidates is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2007, at 7 p.m. at Bryan Middle School. We also plan to have an online Voters Guide highlighting these races as well as the High School District 88 referendum.

If you have any interest in helping with one or both of these activities, please let me know. I am hoping to do most of the planning via email starting in January. We also need volunteers to help out on the night of the forum. email - voterservice@lwvelmhurst.org



Seeking Committee Members LWV Bylaws Need to Be Revisited Gail Anderson, Bylaw Committee Chair

Our Elmhurst LWV Bylaws are located in the 2006-2007 Directory and Yearbook, pages 11 to 16. The Bylaw Committee is a great one to be on because it really only needs to meet one time. Meeting time to be determined by the whims of the volunteers -- some time in January or February in the afternoon or evening. The rest of the committee work can be done by email.

This could be fun! Please phone or email me if you can help. email voterservice@lwvelmhurst.org



Note to voter registrars: We all must be re-registered in order to be qualified to register voters for the spring election. Gail Anderson is trying to get someone from the Wheaton office to come to this meeting a half hour before it starts, so that we don't have to go to Wheaton. We will let you know if someone will be available.

The LWVIL Issues Briefing is always interesting, and we usually have a good turnout from Elmhurst. If you are interested in carpooling, please email Laura Kratz -- president@lwvelmhurst.org.



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ILLINOIS

LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2007

Loyola University Chicago-Water Tower Campus:
Loyola Law Center • Rubloff Auditorium • 25 East Pearson • Chicago

Registration, Breakfast and Networking Starts at 8:30 a.m.

Issue Programs 9:30 a.m. to Noon

- **The State of Voting in Illinois**
- **LWV Advocacy & Front-Burner Issues:** Updates on state Fiscal Policy, Assault Weapons Ban & Environmental Policy

LUNCHEON: Noon to 1 p.m.

WORKSHOPS: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (select one)

- **Judicial Independence:** Everything You Need to Know to Have a Successful Forum! Hear from the McLean County League and learn about an important policy topic as well as the nuts and bolts of planning a major forum: securing funding, partnering with other organizations, publicity, press coverage, and outreach to the community.
- **Criminal Justice:** Prevention, Education, and Emerging Policy Discussions.
- **How to Take Action With the League**

Directions to the 2007 Issues Briefing:

Driving:

The event is located on the corner of Pearson and Wabash in Chicago. For driving directions, consult www.mapquest.com. Public parking information available at <http://www.luc.edu/depts/safety/lots.html>.

Public Transportation: Red Line Chicago/State stop. For information on traveling via CTA, visit www.transitchicago.com.

Overnight Accommodations: For assistance booking hotel rooms in downtown Chicago, refer to www.hotrooms.com (800/468-3500).

To Register for the Issues Briefing, Complete and Return the Registration on the Next Page by January 19, 2007.

REGISTRATION FORM: Issues Briefing 2007

Name: _____ League: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ \$45 per person (includes continental breakfast, lunch, briefing packet and workshop materials)

_____ MORNING Program only: \$25 per person (includes continental breakfast and briefing packet)

_____ AFTERNOON Program only: \$30 per person (includes lunch and workshop materials).

Afternoon Workshops: (Select One)

_____ *Judicial Independence* _____ *Criminal Justice* _____ *How to Take Action with the League*

Forward your registration form and fees to:

League of Women Voters of Illinois
332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1050
Chicago, IL 60604
Attn: Issue's Briefing Registration

Please make checks payable to LWVIL

Registration forms due by January 19th

The League accepts Visa and MasterCard for your convenience.

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature (required): _____