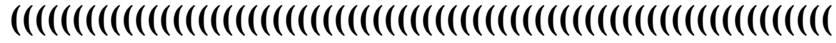


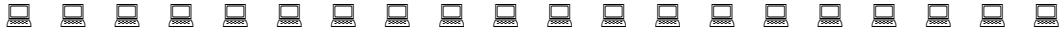
SHOP TALK

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of ELMHURST, ILLINOIS



Laura Kratz	President	president@lwvelmhurst.org	Vol. 58, #8
Donna Blue	Membership	membership@lwvelmhurst.org	March, 2007
Carolyn Landwehr	Shop Talk Editor	shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org	

LWV of Elmhurst website - www.lwvelmhurst.org



March Calendar

Thursday, March 1, 9:15 a.m.	Great Decisions
At the home of Kay Gavin	

March General Meeting

*Voices Against Poverty:
The UN Millennium Development Goals*
Presented by
**Bill Yotive, from the United Nations
Teaching and Learning Project**

**Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m. at the
Frick Center of Elmhurst College
180 Prospect Avenue**

*Our speaker from the U.N. has been funded by grants from
The Millennium Campaign and from the League of Women Voters Education Fund.
The meeting is open to the public.*

Saturday, March 10, 9 a.m.	Board Meeting
At the home of Laura Kratz	
Thursday, March 16, 7 p.m.	Program Planning Gathering
At the home of Connie Zillig	

President's Corner

February was an interesting month, beginning with our consensus meetings on Immigration. Thank you to all the members who participated in these lively discussions at the homes of **Kay Gavin, Gina Brigham**, and at my house. Our Study Chairman, **Carolyn Landwehr**, compiled the findings and the Board's report/summary is going on to the Illinois League.

Preparations for the April 17th elections got underway in February as well. Thanks to the efforts of **Gail Anderson**, her planning committee and helpers – **Jeanne Davik, Jan Dorner, David Anderson, Sue Williams, Mark Tebbe, Maureen Polte, Cheri Niewiara, Jeanne Stuart, Gina Brigham, Kay Pankau, Kay Gavin, and Donna Blue** – we had a successful and well-attended Candidate Forum for the Elmhurst Aldermanic, Park Board and School Board races. Meanwhile, **Corinne Flemm** and **Gerri Long** conducted forums in Villa Park and Lombard. Gerri has also been conducting voter registration in Lombard while **Susan DeRonne** is filling slots for volunteers to register voters in Elmhurst during March. Webmaster **Jeanne Davik** and **Gail Anderson** are also preparing our on-line Voters Guide that will be posted for a month before the April 17th elections.

Our League had a strong showing at the recent LWVIL Issues Briefing. **Donna Blue, Marilyn Thompson, Jeanne Davik, Jan Dorner, Carolyn Landwehr, Rosemary Ashworth** and I all appreciated updates on Voting System Security, Assault Weapons Ban, Fiscal and Environmental issues. We also learned about plans to begin addressing Illinois's school financial problems.

Meanwhile, our Program Chairman, **Lisa Landreth**, has been busy finalizing plans for our March 8th program featuring Bill Yotive of the United Nations. We are very excited to welcome a UN speaker to Elmhurst and to share his expertise with area schools and Elmhurst College.

This month, we welcome new members **Kay Pankau** and **Vince Spaeth** to our ranks and I'm sure you will enjoy reading the profiles of recent new members written by **Corinne Johnson**.

We will be trying something different this year for our Program Planning, also described in the following pages. I hope you will join us as we discuss our League's direction for the next two years. I hope to see you at **Connie Zillig's** home on March 16th.

Laura

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group will meet on Thursday, March 1, at 9:15 a.m. at Kay Gavin's home. Our topic will be the first one in the new book, **The U.S. in the Middle East**. These days we find articles on this complex and disturbing region in every newspaper and news magazine. There is much good, unbiased information in our Great Decisions book to supplement what you have read elsewhere. Please join us if you can; we welcome visitors.



Voices Against Poverty - the UN Millennium Development Goals

Speaker: Bill Yotive

March 8, 7:30 pm at Elmhurst College, 190 Prospect Avenue

Founders Lounge, Frick Center

Bill Yotive, Project Manager of the UN Global Teaching and Learning Project, will be the featured speaker. He is the director of the UN Cyberschoolbus website: <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/> This is an official UN website for schools around the world. He is the former Director of Research for *Sesame Street Workshop*.

Mr. Yotive will talk about the Millennium Development Goals (MDG): the goals themselves, the issues they address, and opportunities for communities and individuals to be involved and to be part of the solutions. He will focus on environmental sustainability; the role gender plays in each of these goals; and the key component to all of the goals - education. He will talk about the role of the U.N. in creating opportunities for young people to help find solutions to global problems.

Adopted by 189 countries in September 2000, the United Nations MDGs are aimed at combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women. They are listed below and can be found at www.millenniumcampaign.org.

1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Disease
7. Ensure Environment Sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

This free public event is underwritten by a grant from the Millennium Campaign and the LWV US Education Fund.

Program Planning Meeting
Friday, March 16th 7:00 p.m. **at the home of Connie Zillig**

*Term Limits -- Environmental Responsibility -- St. Charles Road/York High School Underpass
 Wilder Mansion -- 2006 School Referenda Follow-up -- Ballot Integrity -- National Popular Vote*

Which public policy issues do you want the Elmhurst League to tackle during the next two years? Which issues do you want the State League to address? The Program Planning Meeting is where it all begins. We're looking forward to lively discussion, assisted by wine and cheese.

To prepare, get out your *Directory and Yearbook* and read through our local (p. 17) and state (p.19) study, support and action items. If you want more detail about State positions, go to their website <http://www.lwvil.org> and click on Reference Material under the Member Resources heading. The pdf document entitled *Where We Stand 2005-2007* details all the LWVIL positions.

Program Planning is also the place to begin if you have a new issue you would like us to tackle. Where do you think we should spend our time and energy influencing public policy? From this meeting, we will generate solid proposals that will go to the Board and then to the membership for approval at our Annual Meeting in May. Meanwhile, the State League will review our suggestions, and their Program will be approved at the convention in June.

If you have an idea but don't quite know how to go about presenting it, please call Laura Kratz.



Candidate Forums - Empty Chair Debates
Laura Kratz

Planning for the February 22 Elmhurst Candidate Forum included extensive discussion on handling "empty chair" situations in which only one candidate in a race attends a forum. Under the strictest interpretation of the LWV policy – and in federal elections – a candidate who does not have an opponent present at a forum cannot address the assembled audience or speak before the television cameras. To do so would be considered "giving something of value" to one candidate and would be, therefore, partisan.

Since the forum covered local municipal races, however, excluding single candidates completely from the formal presentations did not seem to serve the interests of the voters. Furthermore, the candidates who did not attend did so for various reasons. It proved to be beneficial to have one policy, applicable to all cases.

We learned some important lessons from the 6th Congressional forum last fall – including the need to anticipate candidates’ refusal to participate or candidates’ canceling their appearances. Therefore, when the candidates filed their petitions to be on the April ballot, they all received invitations to the forum that included a clear statement of our policy and procedure. When the candidates agreed to participate in the forum, they agreed to these conditions. When we knew a candidate would not be present, the remaining candidate was notified so he or she could prepare remarks suitable to the situation.

All candidates in the April elections, whether or not they participated in the forum, have been invited to participate in all aspects of the on-line voters guide



**Nonpartisan Voters Guide Coming to
Our League Website
Jeanne Davik, Webmaster**

This is the time of year when the community is most aware of the League. We have just put on a successful Candidate Forum in Elmhurst, plus another one in Lombard and a third in Villa Park. All three will be broadcast many times on Cable TV (Channel 6) in their respective communities. In addition we are registering voters at various locations, and we will soon have a Voters Guide on our website.

Our Voters Service Chair, Gail Anderson, and her committee have developed a series of questions for each candidate group in Elmhurst – City Council, Park Board, and School Board. Four questions were asked each group as part of the forum. Immediately after the forum, all candidates received a letter asking them to *write out* answers to their four questions, plus three additional ones, for inclusion in our online Voters Guide.

The candidates have a deadline of March 11 to submit their answers to Gail, and I have promised to have them posted on our website by March 17, giving voters a full month before the April 17 election to review all the answers and decide for whom to vote. If you know any of the candidates personally, encourage them to participate and to turn in their answers at their earliest convenience. All the submissions will be made public at the same time, and no changes can be made after that.

I will let our membership know when the Voters Guide is available online and will ask you to help us publicize it by telling all your friends about it also. They will just have to go to our website – <http://www.lwvelmhurst.org> – and look for the **Voters Guide** link. Our voter registration events have already been posted on the website, and as soon as we know when the Candidate Forum will be broadcast, that will be posted also.

Candidate Forum Gail Anderson

I would like to thank the core Candidate Forum committee for giving me such enormous support in planning this event. The event ran smoothly and will be televised on Comcast Cable Public TV Channel 6 in March. Check the website at www.elmhursttv.com or call 630-600-6118 for viewing times.

Please heap gigantic kudos on **Laura Kratz, Jeanne Davik, Jan Dorner, Maureen Polte, Cheri Niewiara, Donna Blue, Sue Williams, Mark Tebbe, Kay Pankau, Gina Brigham, Jeanne Stuart, Kay Gavin** and **David Anderson** for their assistance with planning and/or putting on the forum. Please remember to thank these individuals the next time you see them!



Legislative Interviews

Each year we are encouraged by the State League to meet with our state senators and legislators to find out where they stand on various issues and to strengthen our communication lines with them. While it is not lobbying, we do have several topics we will ask them about: Fiscal Policy and School Funding, Poll Watching, Real ID Act Implementation, Criminal Justice, and the Assault Weapons Ban. These interviews set the stage for future action on these League program items.

The board will schedule the interviews and set up teams of 2-4 members for each visit. If you are interested in participating, please call Laura Kratz. We hope to have both new and "more experienced" members represented on each team.



Membership Donna Blue

Please welcome these new members and add them to your directory.

Kathleen "Kay" Pankau

Vince Spaeth

Park Board Observer Needed. No experience necessary. This position could be split between two people, meaning attending and writing up one Park Board meeting a month. Be the first to hear of plans for the Wilder Building and new developments with the parks and classes! Contact Jan Dorner – observerreports@lwvelmhurst.org - if interested.

Mae Pearson received this letter from past president Olive Spannaus just too late to read at our anniversary party. Olive has been a contributor since she moved to Seattle in 1981.

Dear Mae,

Suddenly I realized the special day is almost here, and I have to acknowledge -- please share with whoever would be interested. I wish I could be there to celebrate -- what fun we would have! Congratulations on your 75th anniversary. I keep up via *Shop Talk*, which I read from cover to cover. Thank you! The Elmhurst League is alive and well, pretty healthy, it seems to me. . . thanks to a firm commitment and the will to do.

I still thrill to hear LWV goals expressed as they were in 1959, when I joined: Let the people know, Make the people care, Help the people act! Here's to many more years of working together for the common good -- making the world a better place.

Love you, Olive Spannaus



Join an LWVIL Committee

League members are invited to serve on the following LWVIL Committees:

Membership and Board Orientation

Develop membership and board orientation materials an/or conduct orientations for local Leagues. Contact Sylvia Tillman.

Civic Education

Consolidate material from existing LWV programs and develop new material for civic education for students. Contact Jan Dorner: observerreports@lwvelmhurst.org

Education and Fiscal Policy

Gather and disseminate information on the Illinois state funding crisis and encourage the Illinois Legislature to build a sound financial framework for public school funding. Contact Kathy Nesburg.

Show Us Amendment

Review LWVIL positions to determine whether the League can support a constitutional amendment that would require a 21-day public review of non-emergency bills prior to action in the General Assembly. Contact Sylvia Tillman.

To contact Sylvia Tillman or Kathy Nesburg, send an email to info@lwvill.org and include the name of the person for whom the message is intended.