



**The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst**  
**Celebrating 75 Years of Public Policy Debate and Voter Education in our Community**

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# Shop Talk

The LWV Elmhurst 75<sup>th</sup> Year Wrap Up Celebration

**Sunday, November 11 at 1:00 pm**

***Iron Jawed Angels* Screening and Social**

Forum Room A250, York High School, 355 St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst, IL

Bring a friend and join fellow League members as we near the end our 75<sup>th</sup> year with a glance back at our history.

The program will begin with a screening of the film ***Iron Jawed Angels*** at 1:00pm. At about 3:00 we'll enjoy a social with coffee and treats. We'll also honor our 50 Year Members and share League stories with fellow members and friends.

Please email Lisa Landreth at [program@lwvelmhurst.com](mailto:program@lwvelmhurst.com) or call if you can bring cookies or other "finger foods" to share.

Parking at York High School is available in the lot on St. Charles Road close to the Academic wing (the new building on the west side of the campus). Signs will be posted at the correct entrance

and will direct you to Forum Room A250. There is an elevator to the second floor.

***Iron Jawed Angels*** is a vivid portrayal of the hunger strike led by suffragists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns that turned the movement more radical and brought about passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. It also chronicles the suffragists' own struggles with family, society and within the movement itself. The younger women's conflict with Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters and Catt's own relationship with President Woodrow Wilson are especially interesting to Leaguers.

Starring Hillary Swank, Frances O'Connor and Angelica Huston (as Carrie Chapman Catt), the film first aired on Home Box Office in 2004.

**LWV Elmhurst 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Display**  
**November**

**Elmhurst Public Library**

When you visit the Library this month, be sure to check out the League of Women Voters display in the lobby display case. Thanks to Mae Pearson, Kay Pankau, and Jan Dorner for bringing our history to the public.

**Great Decisions & Immigration Consensus  
Thursday, November 1, 2007**

Great Decisions: 9:15 am  
Brown Bag Lunch: 11:30  
Immigration Consensus Meeting: 12:30

**Barbara Swords**

Parking is available on east side of the street and on adjacent streets for these meetings

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**Great Decisions 9:15 am**

The topic for discussion is "**War Crimes**"; the presentation of this topic and an in-depth discussion of it are in Chapter 6 of the Great Decisions book.

Today, incidents of massacre, rape, torture, bombings of civilians, and so on occur, not only in the troubled Middle East but also in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the United States--especially, as we know, in the attacks on September 11, 2001. Each act of violence has been labeled a "war crime."

How shall or should these acts be defined tried or punished? What are the laws of war? What international

agencies should have jurisdiction or are these subject only to the jurisdictions of national governments? How can human rights be served and protected throughout the world?

Definitions of these problems and issues for possible solutions may emerge from our discussion.

**Brown Bag Lunch 11:30 am**

Please bring a brown bag lunch for 11:30-12:30--beverages will be provided. Then we will reconvene at 12:30--joined by many other League members for our meeting leading to consensus on the LWV national proposal on Immigration policies.

**Issues and Advocacy  
LWVUS Immigration Study**

**All-Member Consensus Meetings  
Please attend one of these meetings**

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**CONSENSUS:** Member study and agreement on broad concepts that lead to formulation of a position and subsequent League action.

**Dates and Locations**

**Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**  
11:30 brown bag lunch  
12:30 Consensus Discussion  
(Following Great Decisions)

At the home of Barbara Swords  
Parking is permitted on the east side of the street and on adjacent streets for this meeting

**Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00 pm

At the home of Jeanne Davik

The League's legislative program consists of those governmental issues that the League has chosen for concerted study and action at the national, state or local level. The program process is specified in the bylaws and includes the following steps:

**Formal adoption of an issue for study:**

The delegates at the LWVUS Convention in Minneapolis in June 2006 adopted this Immigration Study to help members and the community understand the implications of immigration at the local, state, and federal level. The LWVUS board outlined the scope of the study to include the underlying principles and values regarding immigration, the reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy and immigration's impact.

**Member study:** Background material has been sent to members via the *National Voter*, the League's national magazine, over the past several months. You may also access this information on the Illinois League website by visiting [www.lwvil.org/immigration\\_study/](http://www.lwvil.org/immigration_study/)

Some basic background information will be sent out shortly to LWV Elmhurst members in an all-member email. Members who do not have email should call Jeanne Davik at 630 279-1827 to receive this material before the meetings.

It is essential that members become informed before being asked to make decisions on the issue under consideration. It is through this process that League members become educated on a given issue, and this is what makes subsequent League action on that issue uniquely credible and

respected. During the study phase, members have an opportunity to examine the facts and key pro/con points. They are encouraged to discuss the political realities of action and to contribute ideas for the board to consider when it formulates an action strategy after a position is reached.

**Agreement on Broad Concepts: Consensus**

Before the League can take action, members must agree in broad terms on what they think about various aspects of the policy issue. For the Immigration study, the members will be asked to reach consensus where agreement is reached using League responses to the specific questions that appear on the following pages.

The technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement is consensus by group discussion. It is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the *overall sense of the group* as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. The Elmhurst League has chosen to do this via a series of smaller discussion meetings in private homes rather than in a larger, public meeting.

**Position Formulation, Adoption and**

**Action:** After the consensus meetings we will report our findings to the National League. The Board of Directors will formulate a position based on the national consensus and, once it is adopted, it becomes part of our program allowing the League to take legislative action on the issue. Positions that make up the LWVUS program are reviewed biennially for re-adoption.

## ***LWVUS Immigration Study ~ Prep for Consensus Meetings***

Please answer questions 1 through 4 by rating each item with one of the following responses:  
High Priority                      Lower Priority                      Disagree

### **1. Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as: (Rate each one)**

- a. Ethnic and cultural diversity
- b. Economic, business and service employment needs in the United States.
- c. Environmental impact/sustainability
- d. Family reunification of authorized immigrants and naturalized citizens with spouses and minor children
- e. History of criminal activity
- f. Humanitarian crises/political persecution in home countries
- g. Immigrant characteristics (health and age)
- h. Rights of all workers to safe working conditions and livable wage
- i. Rights of families to remain together
- j. Rights of all individuals in U.S. to fair treatment under the law (fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and humane treatment)
- k. Education and training

### **2. Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows:**

*Approximately 12 million immigrants currently live in the U.S. without authorization or have overstayed their visas. The question of giving these unauthorized immigrants some type of amnesty is dividing Congress and the country.*

- a. Deport unauthorized immigrants
- b. Some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on length of residence in the U.S.
- c. Some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on needs of U.S. employers
- d. All allowed to earn legal adjustment of status by doing things such as paying taxes, learning English, studying civics, etc.
- e. If deported, assess fines before possible re-entry
- f. Assess fines before allowed to earn legal adjustment of status

### **3. Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are:**

- a. Immediate family members, joining family members already admitted for legal permanent residence in the U.S.
- b. Entering the U.S. to meet labor needs
- c. Entering the U.S. as students
- d. Entering the U.S. because of persecution in home country.

### **4a. In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include:**

Social Security Card or other national identification card with secure identifiers for all persons residing in the U.S.

**4b. Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including: (rate each one)**

- i. Physical barriers (such as fences) and surveillance at borders
- ii. Increased personnel at land, air and sea entry points
- iii. More effective tracking of persons with non-immigrant visas until they leave the country
- iv. Verification documents, such as green cards and work permits with secure identifiers.
- v. Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee visa status
- vi. Improved technology for sharing information among Federal agencies
- vii. A program to allow immigrant workers to go in and out of the U.S. to meet seasonal and sporadic labor needs
- viii. Significant fines proportionate to revenue for employers who fail to take adequate steps to verify work authorization of employees

**Questions 5 and 6 are to be answered as Agree or Disagree**

**5. Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.**

**6. Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to proactively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.**

*Development aid has the potential to reduce some of the attractions of emigration to the United States. In Europe, the lowering of trade barriers within the EU, coupled with targeted economic development has turned countries like Ireland and Spain from net out-migration to in-migration countries. In addition, remittances (the funds sent home by foreign-born workers in the U.S.) act as a form of foreign aid that far exceeds the dollars passed from government to government. To the extent that migration is motivated by poverty and unemployment, aid programs that reduce poverty and create jobs are likely to reduce the pressure to leave the country in search of employment and higher wages.*

*However, development aid is no panacea. Economic motives are not the only or even the primary reason for migration to the United States. The largest number of immigrants come to be reunited with family members, and smaller, but significant numbers come as refugees fleeing persecution. Furthermore, some forms of aid may actually make it easier for developing country governments to postpone the kinds of economic reforms that will create local jobs and reduce economically motivated out-migration. From a humanitarian perspective, conditioning development aid on policies that limit out-migration could have disastrous consequences if it reduces aid to countries where the need is greatest. To the degree that immigration and foreign policy aims differ, coordination may be very difficult.*

**Question 7: Comments**

*Hey, wait a minute....Didn't we do this last year? Yes, but.... last year, we did an **Illinois Immigration Study** that was used to formulate positions that Illinois Leagues take regarding bills in our State Legislature. Meanwhile, the League of Women Voters US has not had any positions on Immigration and we've remained silent on the Immigration bills that have come up before Congress. The results of this study will give us the tools we need to address the issue at a national level.*

## **LWV Elmhurst Issues and Advocacy Cool Cities**

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The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst and the Cool Cities Coalition have succeeded in persuading the Elmhurst City Council and Mayor Marcucci to sign on to the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. The Council voted to recommend signing at its meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> and the Mayor signed on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Elmhurst is now

one of more than 700 cities that have made a commitment to reducing carbon emissions by 2012.

The next steps include League participation in creating an emissions audit and planning for a Green Festival to be held next spring or summer.

### ***In Our Community***

PTA Council Community Education Forum

**November 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm York High School**

Forum Rooms A250 & A294

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The community is invited to meet with District 205 School Board members and Administrators to ask questions and discuss issues in small groups at this annual forum sponsored by the Elmhurst Council of PTAs.

After an initial meeting, attendees are divided into smaller groups and the Board members and administrators rotate through each group to discuss issues in a relaxed, casual setting.

### **New Member Interviews**

Corinne Johnson

### **Two York High School Graduates**

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**Kati Anderson** is a first year law student at John Marshall Law School in Chicago. In 2005 she graduated from Columbia College with a degree in Arts, Entertainment and Music Management. She loves to read, especially mysteries and non-fiction and takes good care of her two pet guinea pigs. She joined the League of Women Voters to broaden her association with the current concerns of local government. She is the daughter of Gail and Dave Anderson.

**Sara LoCicero** is a freshman at Indiana University where she plans to complete a five year Master's degree program for athletic trainers. At York she worked as a student trainer for three years and played softball all four years as a pitcher or first baseman. She loves to cook and bake and provided many chocolate chip cookies for the athletes in the training room. Her government teacher, Miss Davis, recommended joining the League of Women Voters as one way of becoming acquainted with her civic responsibilities. She is the daughter of Peggy and Mike LoCicero.

### **Keeping it Green**

Tips and Techniques for living in a greener world

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**Be a Cool Cities Citizen:**

**Reduce**

**Reuse**

**Refill**

**Recycle**



**League of Women Voters of Elmhurst**  
**P.O. Box 12**  
**Elmhurst, IL 60126**

Visit us online at [lwvelmhurst.org](http://lwvelmhurst.org)

## **Special: Local Consensus Meeting Information for Immigration Study**

-----Cut and Post -----

### **LWV Elmhurst Events and Activities**

Great Decisions, Lunch & Immigration Consensus                      Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup>

At the home of Barbara Swords

9:15 am Great Decisions "War Crimes" Discussion

11:30 – 12:30 Brown Bag Lunch – open to ALL League Members

12:30 pm National LWV Immigration Study Consensus Meeting

PTA Community Meeting Forum    November 6<sup>th</sup> York High School, 7:00 pm

Board Meeting    Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> Connie Zillig's at 9:00 am

**LWV Elmhurst 75<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration**  
***Iron Jawed Angels* movie screening & Social**

**Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 1 pm**  
**York High School**

Cool Cities Committee    Wednesday, November 28 7:00 pm Elmhurst Public Library