



Shop Talk

Volume 61, Number 4
November, 2009
Jeanne Davik, Editor
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Looking ahead...

◆ **Elmhurst LWV Holiday Party**

When: December 4, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Sally Hoffman's home,

◆ **Elmhurst LWV Candidate Forum**

When: January 10, 2010

◆ **Illinois LWV "Issues Briefing"**

When: Feb. 6, 2010, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Where: University Center, 525 S. State, Chicago
Issues: Redistricting, Fiscal Crisis, Census, and more!

◆ **National LWV Convention 2010**

What: 49th National Convention of the U.S. League of Women Voters
When: June 11-15, 2010
Where: Atlanta, Georgia

The League is a NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL organization. How can we be both at the same time?

Answer:

We are **Non-partisan** because we do not support, or oppose, any political party or candidate for elected or appointed office.

We are **Political** because we are interested in good government and in passing laws that promote good public policy. We select an issue and study it, we determine areas of member agreement on the issue, and then we lobby our political leaders to act in support of our position.

Read the Elmhurst League's full Nonpartisanship Policy on page 5.

League Directories

Jan Dorner, Directory Editor, has delivered all the directories that she had. If you did not get one, let her know.

November General Meeting:

True Census Count

Thursday, November 12, 7 p.m.
Elmhurst Public Library



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

City Manager Tom Borchert will speak to us about the 2010 Census. Why is the Census important at the local level? What can the City of Elmhurst do to ensure that everyone is counted? What is the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference doing to promote the 2010 Census?

The 2010 Census form has been revised so that it has just 10 questions – ten minutes to complete. The 2010 Census will determine federal funding levels and US Congressional seats. Illinois is expected to lose at least one US Congressman and possibly two. Every person needs to be counted.

Cool Cities Notes

Report by Jan Vanek

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 7 p.m. at the Elmhurst Public Library

Presentation on the Elmhurst Cool Cities: Jan Vanek gave the Arlington Heights League an overview of the Elmhurst Cool Cities program — who we are, what we do, and what we have accomplished. Lonnie Morris of Sierra Club and Jim Valentine from Arlington Heights Cool Cities Group were also on the panel. Jim Valentine spoke about the effort in Arlington Heights for responsible Recycling and Refuse Pickup. They still have two trash pickups weekly and no garbage totes, so they have a lot of messy debris. From the Cool Cities perspective they could reduce the number of trucks on the street each week and thereby reduce CO2 emissions.

Green Town Conference: Sue Williams attended the this conference on October 15. Mayor Daley gave the welcome address and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. was the keynote speaker. She will share with the Elmhurst Cool Cities group the experience of Babylon, NY, which helped its residents retrofit their existing homes to make them more energy efficient and reduce their carbon footprint. For more information go to www.thebabylonproject.org.

Count down to the 2010 Census in DuPage County — Report by Donna Blue

The DuPage Counts kick-off meeting was held Wednesday, October 7, at the College of DuPage. The purpose of the meeting was to inform community leaders from government, business, education, human services, and faith-based organizations of the importance of the Census to everyone in DuPage County.

The program featured speakers representing each of these community areas. **John Quigley**, president and CEO of the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce and Industry, officiated as Master of Ceremonies.

Keynote speakers were **Debra Olson**, DuPage County Board Member, District 4, and **Diana Almanza**, Partnership Specialist, Regional Office of the US Census Bureau. Joining them on a panel were **Mark Avery**, Planning Division Manager of Economic Development and Planning, DuPage County; **Christopher Oakely**, Assistant to the Village Manager, Carol Stream Complete Count Committee; **Darlene Rus-citti, Ph.D.**, Regional Office of Education; and **Mario Lambert**, Vice President NAACP, DuPage County Branch.

After speaking on the importance of the census to their areas of responsibility and their plans

to facilitate an accurate count in DuPage County, the panel answered questions from the audience.

The 2010 Census video, *Portrait of a New America*, was shown. It included information on how communities benefit from Census Bureau data collection efforts, the importance of a complete count, and why the 2010 Census will be the most important count in our nation's history. (This video may be viewed at http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/broadcast/video/census_operations/011424.html.)

United States™
**Census
2010**

Mary Schaafsma, True Census Count Project Manager, League of Women Voters of Illinois, reviewed what the LWVIL is doing for the Census, answered questions, and, to complete the overview of areas of community influence, commented on the role of faith-based organizations. The US 2010 Census website was demonstrated, and participants were provided with Census folders containing sample census questionnaires and partnership fact sheets.

Elmhurst League members working on this event were **Donna Blue, Jan Vanek, and Sue Whitworth.**

Great Decisions

November: **Cuba on the Verge**

December: **Human rights in a new era: wars for peace?**

Barbara Swords, Chair

Great Decisions will meet **Thursday, November 5**, 9:15 a.m., at the home of Barbara Swords. [Parking permitted on Fairfield, Utley, or in Barbara's driveway.]



Discussion will center on "Cuba on the verge," chapter 7 of the *Great Decisions* book. According to the text, "Fifty years after the Cuban revolution of 1959, Cuba is torn between socialism and capitalism, hovering on the verge of ending its isolation from

the U.S. and showing glimmers of openness that could lead to market reform and perhaps even a future path toward democracy."

The group will cover the following: a review of

U.S. Cuban relationships during the past 50 years, an examination of U.S. political issues in regard to Cuban Americans in South Florida, and a consideration of new leadership in both U. S. and Cuba.

Great Decisions will also meet **Thursday, December 3**, 9:15 a.m., at the home of Barbara Swords. Discussion will consider the many issues raised in Chapter 8, "Human rights in a new era: wars for peace?"

Is there a moral contradiction in going to war to enforce peace? What criteria should be applied to qualify for humanitarian intervention? Recent events in Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Russia, the area of the province of Georgia, and elsewhere prompt such questions.

December 3 will be the last Great Decisions meeting in 2009. A new book of discussions on U. S. foreign affairs and policies will be available for the first meeting in 2010, which will be February 4. Please call Barbara if you wish to have her order a copy of the new book for you.

Lake Michigan League of Women Voters 42nd Annual Meeting

October 2-3, 2009 Saugatuck, MI

Laura Kratz and **Donna Blue** attended as Elmhurst League members along with **Marilyn Thompson** who is an LMLWV board member.

Marilyn participated in the *Star of Saugatuck* boat tour that illustrated the ecological challenges of the area including longstanding pollution in the Kalamazoo River and plans for open land development at the mouth of the river.

The Lake Michigan LWV meeting has a reputation for inviting compelling speakers and this year's meeting was no exception. On Friday

night we heard from Traverse City, MI, attorney Jim Olson, a specialist in environmental litigation. He described how loopholes in the Great Lakes Compact allow companies to label water a "product" and to

divert water if it is in containers less than 5.7 gallons. The loopholes allow private companies such as Nestle to pump water from the aquifer and sell it in violation of the spirit of the Compact. After his presentation the group watched the film *Flow*, a documentary on the privatization of water resources worldwide, including the assault on Lake Michigan.

On Saturday, John Legge of the Nature Conservancy described the ecology of the Lake Michigan dunes including their formation and the native and invasive plants to be found there.

Michael Visser, author of *Cold, Clear and Deadly*, was the final speaker. A former corporate chemist, he has done extensive research on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that include chlordane, toxaphane, and PCBs, compounds that do not break down over time but remain in the environment.

He has found that the concentrations of POPs stabilized in the lower Great Lakes since more stringent air pollution controls have been enacted. However, POPs have become more prevalent in northern, colder waters due, he believes, to their having been carried by evaporation from warmer waters and air currents to colder waters. For this reason, he

suggests removing all fat and skin from northern cold water fish such as salmon before eating; seeking out fish from cold southern hemisphere waters may even be better simply because there is less industrialization and pollution in the southern hemisphere.

During the business meeting, the 2009-2010 Program was adopted:

The 2009-2010 program will be based on the National Resources positions of the LWVUS as they relate to the environmental issues affecting the Lake Michigan Basin and surrounding states, including:

- Education of the Public and the Lake Michigan Leagues on the Problems of Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes
- Encourage Public Participation in Planning for the Protection and Restoration of the Great Lakes
- Support Scientific Research for the Great Lakes
- Encourage Shoreline Management Planning and Implementation

The LMLWV also decided to maintain the following Areas of Emphasis and directed the board to prioritize them:

1. As a member of the Healing our Waters Coalition, we will work to implement Great Lakes Restoration bills as established at the Great Lakes Restoration Conference, 2009: restore water quality, prevent and control invasive species, clean up toxic pollution, mitigate the impacts of global warming on the Great Lakes.
2. We will work to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC) Protection and Restoration Strategy.
3. We will support efforts to reduce the use of pesticides and promote use of non-toxic alternatives.
4. We will advocate for water conservation and resource protection to complete the requirements of the Great Lakes Compact.
5. We will monitor the implementation of the Great Lakes Compact.
6. We will monitor the progress of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, with particular attention to pharmaceuticals in the water.

Continued on the next page.



Lake Michigan LWV *continued*

7. We will address permitted discharges into the Great Lakes with a goal to reducing the amount of pollutants so discharged.

All LMLWV members may suggest priorities by submitting them in writing.

The Lake Michigan League also voted to study the possibility of conducting its annual meeting on alternate (odd-numbered) years in conjunction with other organizations and report on their findings at the next annual meeting scheduled to be in Wisconsin.



Some of the Elmhurst League members who gathered at Laura Kratz's home to "rendezvous" before the Health Care program at Elmhurst College. Pictured, are Laura, Jeanne Stuart, Sue Whitworth, Donna Blue, and Sue Williams.

◆ Letter to the Editor, following our October Meeting on District 205 Issues ◆

October 25, 2009

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Elmhurst League of Women Voters (LWV), I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community, School District 205, and the local press for their contributions to the success of our October 22nd School District 205 issues program.

Community concerns about changes in School District policies and procedures, and confusion and discord over the 162 S. York purchase, led us to conclude that the League would be a logical group to research the issues and to provide opportunity for open community discussion.

The LWV has a longstanding reputation for non-biased observance of our local governmental boards. However, as a nonpartisan **political** organization, we are free to use that information to advocate on issues where we have a position. At the local level, this project was conducted under the authority of one of our five Study, Support and Action Items adopted

for 2009-2010 to: *Report and monitor local government and promote and support good governmental practices.*

We found that there were some areas where District 205 had indeed engaged in good governmental practices and we recognized them. Where they have fallen short, we acknowledged those as well and presented the standards by which those practices are judged.

As a non-partisan organization, the League of Women Voters neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates. As a political organization, we will continue to work for efficient and economical government that is responsive to the will of the people.

We are gratified by the overwhelmingly positive response from the community on this project and encourage everyone to visit our website, www.lwvelmhurst.org for continued coverage of local government.

Thank you,
Laura Kratz, President, LWV of Elmhurst
president@lwvelmhurst.org

Need a ride or want to carpool to a League event? Contact Donna Blue

lstvpresident@lwvelmhurst.org

or Dorothy McGuire

secretary@lwvelmhurst.org



Membership Notes

Please welcome our new member and add her to your Directory:

Jessica Tarica

Elmhurst League of Women Voters Non-Partisanship Policy

The League of Women Voters is a political organization but does not support or oppose any political party or candidate for elected or appointed office.

The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst subscribes to the policy on non-partisanship adopted by the LWVUS: *The League as an organization does not support or oppose any political party, candidate for elective office (whether running under a party designation or in a "non-partisan" election.)*

Participation in the activities of the political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. The League urges its members as individuals to work in the party of their choice. Nominating petitions may not be circulated at League meetings.

Board Members may not:

1. Hold partisan office or serve as a precinct captain.
2. Hold an office in a political party or its caucus.
3. Serve as a campaign manager for a candidate in an election.
4. Campaign in an election by:
 - a. canvassing door-to-door.
 - b. hosting candidates' gatherings.
 - c. Adding one's name to a candidate's or political party's campaign material.
5. Express a view through the public media contrary to a League position - even as an individual.

All Board Members may attend information-giving political events.

Subject to the above provisions, Board Members, with the exception of the PRESIDENT and VOTERS SERVICE CHAIR, may:

1. Engage in political activity not in conflict with their portfolios.
2. Sign and/or circulate a petition to have a candidate's name placed on a ballot.
3. Display candidates' signs in their yards.
4. Accept a non-political appointed office.
5. Contribute money to a candidate's campaign.
6. Serve in discreet campaign activity, such as clerical.
7. Serve on a local, non-partisan elected board, such as school or parks.

The Board:

1. Shall exercise extreme care not to give the appearance of supporting or opposing candidates on the basis of their positions on an issue in which the League is involved.
2. Represents the membership of the League and never takes a position independent of the League membership.
3. May take the initiative in recommending people to serve on appointed public commissions and committees, and considers it appropriate for Board members to serve in such capacity.
4. Shall decide the application of the non-partisan policy in situations not covered above or in LWVUS guidelines, or in cases where a deviation is indicated. (When in doubt as to policy, a Board member shall consult with the Executive Board, who will determine if Board action is needed.)

Reviewed and Approved 9/19/09

Upcoming League Events:

October 29, 7 pm: Rendezvous — Quest Lecture, given by Eugene Robinson, Pulitzer Prize winner for his coverage of the 2008 Presidential election.

Talk: “Yes We Can...Are We?” — Elmhurst College, Hammerschmidt Chapel

November 1: Votes for Women — Play at Ruth Paige Theater

November 5, 9:15 am: Great Decisions — Home of Barbara Swords

November 12, 7 p.m.: LWV Elmhurst Monthly Meeting — **True Census Count** — Elmhurst Public Library

November 21, 9 am: LWV Elmhurst Board Meeting — Home of Dorothy McGuire

December 4, 7:30 pm: Holiday Party — Home of Sally Hoffman

Looking ahead to 2010 —

Sunday, January 10, 2010: League-sponsored Candidate Forum

Tuesday, February 2, 2010: General Primary Election



LWV Elmhurst
P.O. Box 12
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Visit us online at
www.lwvelmhurst.org