



Shop Talk

Volume 61, Number 3
October, 2009
Jeanne Davik, Editor
shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org

For your social calendar...

◆ **HEALTH CARE for the 21ST CENTURY**
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 6 p.m. *New time!*

We will **Rendezvous** at the home of our president, Laura Kratz, enjoy refreshments and discussion, and then carpool to the Health Care program at Elmhurst College.

Speaker: John Kitzhaber, a former Oregon Governor and practicing physician. His talk begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Frick Center.

◆ **WINE and CHEESE PARTY**

Our next "Get to Know the League of Women Voters Wine Tasting" is coming in October. We'll let you know the exact date as soon as we get confirmation from the wine shop.

Meanwhile, think about which of your friends and neighbors might be interested in learning more about the League. Forward their names and addresses (email or street) to our Membership chair Sue Williams at membership@lwvelmhurst.org. She will send out invitations (cards or e-invites) once we have a definite date.

Plan to join us for wine, cheese, and a nice evening!
—Sue Williams

October General Meeting:

School District 205 Issues; Expanded Observer Coverage

Thursday, October 22, 7 p.m.
Elmhurst Public Library



New Dist. 205 logo

District 205 is in the news these days as the school Board faces a variety of issues that, in some cases, are dividing our community.

Budget transparency — the 162 South York purchase — the Transition Program — the Open Meetings Act — a new football field at York High School — Freedom of Information requests — these are just a few of the recent areas of concern.

As part of our League's ongoing mission to observe and report on the actions of local government bodies and to promote good governmental practices, we decided late this summer to go beyond our regular *Observer Reports* School Board meetings coverage and take an in-depth look at some of these issues.

At the October 22 meeting League members will share what we have learned so far, and we encourage everyone to participate in a vital discussion of what constitutes open and transparent government.
— Laura Kratz

President's Corner

President Obama's Speech to America's School Children

President Barack Obama scheduled a September 8, 2009, address to the school-children of America, motivating them to do well in school this year. The address was broadcast during the school day to coincide with the beginning of the school year in districts throughout the nation.

In the days leading up to the broadcast, there was considerable media attention given to a nationwide effort to keep the President from speaking to the children. The President was accused of attempting to "indoctrinate" students with his "socialist agenda." I was appalled to discover that anyone would take these assertions seriously and shocked to discover that Elmhurst District 205 was one of the school districts that had not taken a stand against such foolishness.

Here is my email correspondence with District 205 Superintendent Dr. Lynn Krizic. The Board of Education and the LWV Elmhurst Board were copied on each message. *Continued on page 2.*



Laura Kratz
LWV Elmhurst President

Email Correspondence Regarding President Obama's Speech to School Children

Here is Laura's email correspondence with District 205 Superintendent Dr. Lynn Krizic. The Board of Education and the LWV Elmhurst Board were copied on each message.



From: Laura Kratz

Sent: Friday, September 04, 2009 2:09 PM

To: Ostojic, Peggy; Conroy, D. O'Keefe; Carlquist, David; Collins, James; Davy, Marta; DeRonne, Susan; Hirsch, Maria; Krizic, Lynn

Subject: Community Concern

Dear Dr. Krizic:

A concerned citizen contacted me this late morning asking if I was aware that District 205 does not intend to show President Obama's speech to students when it is broadcast on Tuesday.

I have to admit, if it is the case, I was stunned given the long history of Presidential messages to school children on topics ranging from physical fitness, drug use, and the Challenger Expedition, just to name a few.

Could you please fill me in on what decision was made and the rationale? Our interest in this is keen since, as you know, the League has participated with the District 205 in Citizen Engagement programming, both in and out of the classroom for many years.

Thank you,

Laura Kratz, President, Elmhurst LWV

Laura,

Like you, we have received many phone calls and emails from parents with regard to our intent to show this speech to students. When we received information from Secretary of Education Arne Duncan regarding President Obama's upcoming speech, this information was made available to all of our school principals. Our technology department immediately began to put plans in place to have copies of the

speech made as there was concern we did not have adequate bandwidth to support a live feed at all thirteen schools.

As part of the tech department's plan, they will be making copies of the speech for use by teachers at all schools. While the speech will not be viewed live, copies of the speech will be available for teacher use as early as Tuesday afternoon since the broadcast has been moved to 11:00 a.m. Central Standard Time.

As part of our communication plan parents will be given notice of the school's intent to show the speech.

Respectfully,

Lynn S. Krizic, Ed.D., Superintendent
Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205

Dear Dr. Krizic:

Thank you for your prompt reply to my inquiry regarding President Obama's speech on Tuesday.

Since writing to you earlier, a League member has forwarded to me the message from her son's school principal explaining how the speech will be presented. He says the school staff will ensure it is "appropriate" before it is shown to students late in the school day. There is no mention whatsoever about insufficient bandwidth for live broadcast.

From these remarks and the recurring mention of phone calls, we can only conclude that District 205 has chosen to bow to the partisan pressure that has been widely documented in the news media over the past several days. We are deeply troubled that our District has decided to ignore a golden opportunity to teach the children of our community one of the cornerstones of American Democracy: respect for all elected officials, regardless of their party affiliation.

Sincerely,

Laura Kratz, President, Elmhurst LWV

Looking ahead...

Candidate Forum: January 10, 2010

Cheri Niewiara, Voter Service Chair

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Sunday, January 10, 2010 Candidate Forum at Elmhurst City Hall. At this time, DuPage County Board Member candidates for Districts One and Two and State Representative candidates for Districts 41 and 46 will be invited to participate.

A short-term committee is being formed, and all members are encouraged to be involved. We have jobs that need to be completed before the forum, including some that can be done quite independently. We will also be looking for members to help out on the day of the forum,

and a schedule of volunteer needs will be circulated in January. Please email Cheri Niewiara at voterservice@lwvelmhurst.org if you would like to help with the forum.



Also, if you have a question that you would like the committee to ask candidates in a specific race or a general question for all candidates at the forum, please email your questions to Cheri with *CF Question 2010* as your subject.

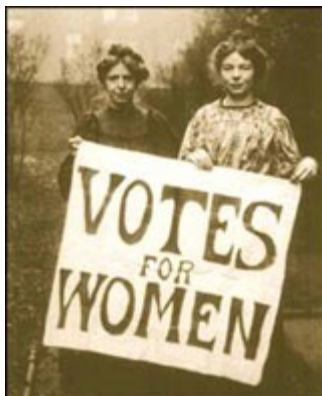
The GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION is Tuesday, February 2, 2010.

Votes for Women! the play

Donna Blue, VP Development

Join your fellow League members and friends for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon of "comedy history, and drama... all in one show" at the play, **Votes for Women!**

It is a look at the women's suffrage movement and the relationships between family, friends, protestors, and politicians over the issue of women's right to vote.



Ruth Page Theater
1016 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago

**Sunday, November 1
2 p.m.**

Tickets: \$22 each,
including round trip
transportation
between Elmhurst and
the theater.

Votes for Women! was written by Elizabeth Robins, an American actress living in England and a participant in the women's suffrage movement in England. She was a member of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Women's Social and Political Union.

Reserve your tickets now by filling out and printing [this online form](#) and mailing it with your check to League of Women Voters Theater Event, P.O. Box 12, Elmhurst, IL 60126. If you do not have internet access, phone Donna Blue.

Great Decisions: October 1

Barbara Swords, Chair

Great Decisions will meet Thursday, October 1, 2009, at 9:15 a.m. at the home of Barbara Swords. [Parking permitted on Fairfield, Utley, driveway].

Evelyn Zerfoss will lead the discussion of issues prompted by chapter 6, "Global Food Crisis." These issues include worldwide price increases and decreases for food staples like rice, corn, and beans; the increasing consumption of meat and dairy products; reductions in the amount of arable land and water resources; the use of corn and soy beans for biofuel rather than for food; agricultural subsidies and structures of agribusiness; large malnourished populations throughout the world; and global climate change.

Our Great Decisions discussion group will tackle these matters for another thoughtful discussion on October 1. Join us.

Membership Notes

Sue Williams, Membership Chair

Thank you to all of our members who have renewed! If you have not joined for the 2009-2010 year, please do so online, or mail your dues to LWV, P.O. Box 12, Elmhurst, 60126.

Need a ride or want to carpool to a League event?
Contact Donna Blue lstvpresident@lwvelmhurst.org or Dorothy McGuire secretary@lwvelmhurst.org



Directories

Jan Dorner, Directory Editor

The 2009-10 Directories will be available for pickup at the September 24th meeting.

ISSUES: *The League of Women Voters studies and acts on issues.*

The Illinois League has named these as its 2009-2010 **CORE ISSUES:**

- Fiscal Policy/ Tax Reform/ School Funding
- Environment Protection & Pollution Control
- Campaign Finance & Ethics Reform

In addition, these are the League's 2009-2010 **WATCHFUL ATTENTION ISSUES:**

- Civil Liberties/ Women's Issues
- Education
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Natural Resources
- Social Policy (TANF, Child Care, Housing, Employment)
- Criminal Justice
- Election Law/ Redistricting
- Health Care
- Mental Health
- Death Penalty Abolition
- Equal Rights Amendment
- Immigration
- Smart Growth/ Land Use

Several of the State League's Issue Specialists are members of the Elmhurst League:

- ◆ **Rosemary Ashworth** is the Natural Resources Specialist.
- ◆ **Laura Kratz** is one of two Climate Change Specialists.

You don't have to be an Issue Specialist to lobby for the issue(s) you care about. **You can sign up to become a GRASSROOTS ADVOCATE.** The League will alert you when key decisions are pending on those issues. You can then lobby your legislators by phone, letter, or email.

You can sign up using a fill-in-the-blanks online form, which you can find here: http://www.lwvil.org/action_grassroots.asp No printing or mailing needed. Or, if you don't have internet access, phone the *Shop Talk* editor, Jeanne Davik, and she will send you a printed form to fill out and mail in.

Our Website Rocks!

Myrrha Guzman, Webmaster

There is so much you can learn and do on our website, such as track local School Board, Park District, Library Board, and City Council activity with our *Observer Reports*; follow the League's latest concerns about the School District's Budget process by reading the written communications between the League and the School Superintendent and Board; contact our League Board members with any questions and comments you may have; and fill your calendar with dates of our member meetings, other programs, and interesting community events.



Find out how to contact your government officials, track local elections, and see how the candidates stand on issues impor-

tant to you. We will always try to provide the latest election results. Don't forget that can also join the League, pay your dues, and give a donation online.

And you don't need to be Captain Kirk to find our "Cling-Ons"! Hurry and buy our colorful window clings at our website. Check us out at lwvelmhurst.org.

Countdown to the 2010 Census

THE DUPAGE COUNTS! Collaborative:
The Citizen Advocacy Center • The College of DuPage • DuPage County • The Leagues of Women Voters of Illinois, DuPage, Elmhurst, Downers Grove/Lisle/Woodridge, Glen Ellyn, Naperville, and Wheaton.

Join Us on October 7th as we begin planning for the 2010 U.S. Census. At this event you will learn why the Census is important to everyone in DuPage County, and how you can help! We'll provide you with information, materials, and answers to your questions, as well as an opportunity to network with your peers.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 7, 7:15 p.m.

WHERE: West Commons Room of Building K; College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn. (Enter Parking Lot A from Fawell [22nd Street], west of Lambert Road.)

Upcoming League Events:

September 24, 7 pm: LWV Elmhurst Monthly Meeting — **The Public's Right to Know** — Elmhurst Pub. Library

October 1, 9:15 am: Great Decisions — Home of Barbara Swords

October 2 - 3: Lake Michigan League of Women Voters — Annual Meeting — Saugatuck, MI

October 6, 6 pm: LWV Elmhurst Rendezvous — Refreshments and discussion: Home of Laura Kratz.

7:30 pm Talk: ***The Unfinished Business of the Baby Boom Generation: Health Care for the 21st Century*** — Elmhurst College, Frick Center.

October 7, 7:15 pm : Meeting of *DuPage Counts* Collaborative — College of DuPage, Building K

October 17, 10 am: LWVIL Leadership Rap — 332 S. Michigan, Chicago, Rm. 430

October 22, 7 pm: LWV Elmhurst Monthly Meeting — **School District 205 Issues; Expanded Observer Coverage** — Elmhurst Public Library

October 24, 9 am: LWV Elmhurst Board Meeting — Home of Sue Williams

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

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
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Visit us online at
www.lwvelmhurst.org