



# The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst

*Over 75 Years of Public Policy Debate and Voter Education in our Community*

Volume 60, Number 1  
Summer 2008  
Laura Kratz, Editor  
[shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org](mailto:shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org)

## Shop Talk



The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst and  
Our Cool Cities Coalition Partners Proudly Present the First

## Elmhurst Green Fest

Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Wilder Park \* Elmhurst Public Library \* Elmhurst College**

**Find out how you can help curb Global Climate Change. Whether you're ready to try your first energy saving light bulb in your home or business, or if you're ready to take another big step, you'll find something of interest here.**

### Speakers and Discussions

Jay Womack, Charles Laliberte, the Rev. Jonathan Dean, Jean Marie Kauth,  
Kay McKeen, Wendy Marshall, Mark Stenftenagel and Kevin Polka

### Hands on Activities and Demonstrations for Children and Adults

Worm Composting, Energy Bike, Watershed Model, Children's Crafts and Stories

### Community Bicycle Ride

### Voter Registration

### Door Prizes and Free Gifts

Including 2 Neuton Battery Operated Lawn Mowers

### Electronics Recycling

### Vendors

### Live Entertainment

Elmhurst Green Fest is a community activity organized by the Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition with support from The Community Bank of Elmhurst (Lead Sponsor) The League of Women Voters of the United States, Oxfam America, American Gardens, Inc., Architect Studios, Chicago Records Management, Elmhurst Rotary, Larry Roesch Family Auto Dealers and the Elmhurst Jaycees.



8:30 am to 11:30 am Prairie Path & Spring Rd. Departures every 20-30 minutes	<b>3-4 Mile Bicycle Club Ride</b> along portions of new Salt Creek Greenway and Prairie Path, ending at Green Fest. All ages welcome but minors must be accompanied by an adult and <b>ALL RIDERS MUST WEAR HELMETS</b> . Rides take about a half an hour; bike parking will be available at Wilder
10:00 am Elmhurst College Circle Hall, Lower Level	<b>Jay Womack, Wight and Company</b> Green Building and Landscaping Techniques
10:30 am Elmhurst Public Library	"Green" Stories for Kids
11:00 am Elmhurst Public Library	<i>The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst Presents</i> <b>Charles Laliberte and the Reverend Jonathan Dean</b> Panel discussion on the Impact of Climate Change on People in Developing Countries and Our Moral Responsibilities Sponsored by the LWVUS and Oxfam International
12:00 Noon Elmhurst Public Library	<b>Jean-Marie Kauth, Chicagoland Healthy Lawn Team</b> The Dangers of Chemical Lawn Care and Sustainable Alternatives
1:00 pm Elmhurst Public Library	"Green" Crafts for Kids
1:00 pm Elmhurst College Circle Hall, Lower Level	<b>Mark Stenftenagel, Whitney Co. and Kevin Polka, of Paragon Mechanical, Inc.</b> Using Solar Energy and Other Alternative Energy Sources in Your Home
2:00 pm Elmhurst Public Library	<b>Wendy Marshall, Healthy Conversions</b> Is Your Home Safe From Environmental Toxins? Take Action
2:00 pm Lizzadro Museum	<b>Kay McKeen of School &amp; Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education (SCARCE)</b> Are You Going Green?

### Exhibitors and Vendors

Pioneer Feed	Paragon Mechanical'	Conservation Foundation
SCARCE	Chicago Wilderness	E.L.Foust Company
United Recycling	Cool Cities Coalition	Eco-Justice Collaborative
FLOR	Shacklee Eco Products	Tallgrass Restoration
City of Elmhurst	Brookfield Zoo	First Congregational Church
REI	Elmhurst Honda Grand Ave.	Healthy Conversions
PACE	Elmhurst Toyota	University of Illinois --
Elmhurst Park District	US Green Building Council	Extension Master Gardeners
York High School Eco Club	School District 205	
Partners for Clean Air	York High School Jugglers	...with more to be announced

**League of Women Voters of Elmhurst  
Green Fest Program**

**Saturday, August 9th  
Elmhurst Public Library at 11:00 am**

---

With support from the LWVUS and Oxfam America, the League of Women Voters of Elmhurst is proud to welcome **Charles Laliberte** and the **Reverend Jonathan Dean** for a conversation on the **Impact of Global Climate Change on the World's Poorest Communities**

Mr. Laliberte is a well-known former York High School art teacher who is now the head of Children UP, a nongovernmental organization that invests in the youth of Uganda, a nation

where poverty, civil unrest and disease are worsened by global climate change.

The Reverend Dean has been Associate Pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Downers Grove since 2006. He has spoken eloquently on the moral responsibility of communities to protect the environment.

We look forward to a stimulating conversation moderated by Laura Kratz, LWVIL Climate Change Issues Specialist.

**League Volunteers Needed for Green Fest  
Voter Registrars and General LWV Information**

**Saturday, August 9th  
Wilder Park**

---

**To help out at our Cool Cities/LWV booth** and/or to assist with setup and cleanup, please contact **Jan Vanek** to volunteer for a 2-hour period. This is a great opportunity to get the word out about League and to talk with the community.

**Voter Registrars** are asked to contact **Myrrha Guzman** for Green Fest Voter registration. This table will be placed well away from education and advocacy activities at the Cool Cities/LWV Booth.

**Electronics Recycling  
Green Fest Service**

**Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>  
East Side of Wilder Park on Cottage Hill Avenue**

---

Unitec Recycling Corporation of Villa Park will collect electronics for recycling at Green Fest. Their trailer will be located on the Cottage Hill side of Wilder Park between Alexander and Church Streets. Please note: There may be a small fee for recycling certain television and

computer monitors. They will be taking the following items: Monitors, Printers, Toner Cartridges, Peripherals, Fax and Copy Machines, Business Equipment, Telecom Equipment, Telephones and Cell Phones, Audiovisual, Video, and DVD players.

## Green Fest Information

Green Fest schedules, exhibitor and vendor listings are constantly updated as more groups finalize their plans to participate. The latest information will be posted on the LWV Elmhurst website

[www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org)

## The President's Corner

Donna Blue

---

Happy summer days to all of you. I hope you are enjoying long, lazy days with your family and friends.

We ended our 2007-2008 activity year with a very enjoyable Annual Meeting at the home of **Colette Kubiesa**. As usual, we made quick work of our League business so we could get on with socializing and enjoying all the wonderful treats everyone brought.

As you can see, the first annual **Green Fest** is coming up soon. This event is a direct outcome of our Cool Cities action item adopted a year ago and helps to fulfill our civic education duties as a Cool City. The coalition we started with the Sierra Club, the City of Elmhurst, Elmhurst College, AAUW, the Elmhurst Public Library, and Heaven and Earth Growers, has expanded to include a broad range of community organizations, churches, governmental bodies, and local businesses as well as interested citizens. Headed by our own **Jan Vanek**, the Green Fest planning committee includes members **Laura Kratz, Sue Williams, Carol Rounds, and Dannee Polomsky** with additional support from **Gina Brigham, Lisa Landreth, and Elaine Libovicz**. The Green Fest will provide lots of information on decreasing your carbon footprint and living a greener lifestyle, as well as fun and socializing. We are especially proud of our program on the impact of Climate Change on poor communities. Our League received a grant from the LWVUS and Oxfam for this project and Laura and I were included at a special Climate Change luncheon at

Convention as grant recipients. We hope you will be able to participate fully in this event.

This summer issue of *Shop Talk* also contains reports of the LWVUS Convention, "Reaching New Heights Together," from your League's delegates, **Donna Blue** and **Laura Kratz**. Along with **Jeanne Davik** who attended as an LWVIL delegate, we thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of Convention in the lovely, progressive Pacific Northwest city of Portland, Oregon. I hope you will find the reports informative and thought provoking, as you learn of League actions around the country. What a busy four days of keynote speeches, panel discussions, presentations, caucuses, workshops, networking, and voting on resolutions, national officers, proposed bylaws, positions, and program items. Signs emblazoned with state names waving in the air, announcing where each state's delegation would sit during that plenary session, generated excitement for the business ahead. The wealth of enthusiasm, dedication, knowledge, and abilities for action contained in the League through its members is awe-inspiring. From the warm welcome from the Portland host League to the equally warm invitation to Atlanta for the 2010 Convention and with all the business in between, the Convention was a testament of League members' commitment to movement towards common goals and of the great impact of Leagues, national, state, and local, on the betterment of American life. So, here's to the members of the LWV for making a difference in our communities, states, and nation! Long may we successfully continue to strategize, act, and make a difference in this land we love

---

### Calendar Planning Meeting

Jan Vanek, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Programs

Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 am

Bring your ideas and be ready to discuss programs and activities for the coming year.

If you are unable to attend, please email or call with suggestions and your areas of interest.

## **Voter Registrars Training for New Registrars**

Myrrha Guzman, Voter Registrar

---

We are excited that several members have agreed to become trained and appointed as voter registrars. Training will be conducted later this summer. The new registrars will certainly provide needed assistance during our next big voter registration drive, which is planned to take place during September through the last day to

register, October 7, 2008, at our local libraries and throughout our community. Although we already have a strong core of ready, willing and able registrars, we anticipate another record turnout during the registration drive, as the upcoming election has many people excited and eager to make their voices heard at the polls.

## **LWVIL Student Election Activities**

Jan Dorner

---

### **Illinois Student Vote**

This program offers teachers and students the opportunity to participate fully in the electoral process. Participating schools and classes will undertake activities to study the candidates and issues of the 2008 election. They will then be able to make informed decisions as they vote for candidates in a simulated election.

LWVIL has received a grant from the McCormick Foundation to fund this year's Illinois Student Vote. Jesse White, Illinois' Secretary of State, also is a sponsor. A web site, [www.illinoisstudentvote.org](http://www.illinoisstudentvote.org) has free downloadable curriculum for K – 12 grade, space for teachers to post pictures, videos, and more curricula ideas. All Illinois schools have received a brochure in April and will receive another in August. **We need your help getting the word out. Please encourage any teachers you know to participate!**

### **High School Simulated Federal Election**

LWVIL has also received a grant from the U. S. Elections Assistance Commission for a simulated federal elections program for high school students held before the November 4, 2008, presidential election. The DuPage County Election Commission and 12 high schools in DuPage County have committed to doing this mock election with actual election equipment! All five DuPage County Leagues will be asked to help run these mock elections that will take place between mid September and mid October. Please call Jan Dorner to volunteer to help with this activity. The 12 DuPage high schools that will be participating are: York, Westmont, West Chicago, Wheaton Warrenville South, Wheaton North, Naperville North, all four Glenbards (North, South, East, West), Fenton and Downers Grove South. At the moment, we are in the planning phase of this project and as more information becomes available, it will be passed on!

## **Dues Reminder**

2008-2009 dues must be in by September 1<sup>st</sup> for your name to be included in the annual *Yearbook and Directory*. Dues may be paid online at [www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org) or by mail to LWV, P.O. Box 12, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Individuals are \$60.00; households 75.00; and students \$30.00.

**National Program for the 2008-2010 Biennium** Delegates voted at the Monday Plenary session to adopt the recommended Program with the following addition to the Principles: **The LWVUS believes that all powers of the US government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.**

**Massachusetts Healthcare Reform: Miracle or Mirage?** After consideration of the provisions and inadequacies of the MA 2006 "Chapter 58" healthcare law and its resulting problems, it is apparent that this reform is a mirage. This program has not enabled an "equitable distribution of healthcare services" throughout the state. Instead, the state's existing costly and complex private/public programs were left intact and supplemented with an additional layer of public/private plans allocated by income level.

**Healthcare Reform: Strategy for the Future** State and national efforts are needed now to help people understand the issues. State programs need mechanisms for transfer of funds. National publicly funded, privately delivered healthcare would save money for city and county governments. Small businesses cannot afford to provide healthcare to employees; their margins are not big enough. Healthcare costs must be based on their actual cost not on what is billed, which has a poor correlation with cost. Several state leagues shared their experiences as they are currently pursuing efforts for healthcare reform.

**Health Care Program:** At the Monday Plenary session, the delegates voted to **adopt a Health Care program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed.**

**Climate Change** This was one of the hottest topics at convention this year and on Monday,

the delegates voted to adopt **A Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change.** The LWVUS Climate Change Task Force has been in place for the past year and a half and has produced quite a bit of material available to for local Leagues to use. The task force is preparing a FAQ on coal and has information on emissions cap and trade schemes and carbon taxes to curb global warming.

**Protect Our Great Lakes (ILO)** The Lakes have been threatened by export and diversion schemes, including refilling the Ogallala aquifer and shipping Lake water to Asia and to the southwest US. These schemes were blocked by an agreement between eight states and two Canadian provinces. Other threats include pesticides, past and present industrial pollution, raw sewage overflows, toxic sediments, invasive species, and wetland loss. The 2001 Great Lakes Legacy Act is now up for reauthorization and would triple funding to expand eligible projects beyond just cleanup to restoring aquatic habitat, funding public information and education programs, eliminating bureaucratic red tape that limited the effectiveness of the original Legacy Act, and encouraging development of innovative technology to permanently destroy contaminated sediments. You can contact your elected officials to support a fully funded Great Lakes Legacy Act reauthorization by going to their website [www.greatlakes.org](http://www.greatlakes.org)

**The United Nations in 2008** An annual wrap-up is available on the website. Women of all ages are the concern of the NGO Commission the Status of Women. This group has launched a campaign on Violence Against Women. Visit [www.saynotoviolence.org](http://www.saynotoviolence.org) to sign a petition and to get more information. Identity documentation is an important issue. Identity is a human right; however, many people cannot prove who they are because they have no document. Births may not be registered or records may be destroyed during disasters.

**Public Financing Campaign Reform** Public financing campaign reform takes big private money out of political campaigns and gives citizens a meaningful role in candidate selection. It increases competition, reduces special interest group influence, and allows candidates with public support rather than private money donors to run for office. Various state Leagues shared their experiences advocating for public financing reform measures.

**Diversity: My Community, My League** No matter where they are located, all Leagues do work that impacts diverse communities, whether it is intended or not, and can use this as a starting point for outreach. Diversity goes beyond race, gender, or culture; Leagues can develop strategies to be “intentionally generational” and

### **Great Decisions** Barbara Swords

---

Our foreign affairs study and discussion group will meet regularly on the first Thursday of the month at the home of Barbara Swords at 9:15 am.

New members and visitors are always welcome. Please call Barbara (630-832-4784) for information and reading materials in our book, published by the Foreign Policy Association.

culturally competent when reaching out to diverse groups.

**Election Integrity** This caucus was held to discuss the rationale for and exact wording of a resolution to adopt specific criteria to be used when advocating for election integrity measures. While the resolution failed to pass in the Monday plenary session, the caucus did raise some very interesting issues, including the potential for conflict of interest between LWV Voter Service (where many of our members work hard to cultivate good working relationships with local election officials) and our advocacy efforts for fair, transparent elections, often viewed with suspicion by those same election officials.

We will begin the year with the following discussions:

September 4, 2008: Chapter 6: "Latin America: the next U. S. President's agenda"

October 2, 2008: Chapter 7: "U. S.- China economic relations: evolving rivalry"

November 6, 2008: Chapter 8: "Foreign aid: new players, new goals?"

## ***Elmhurst LWV Summer Events***

### **Calendar Planning Meeting**

July 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am at the home of Jan Vanek

### **Elmhurst Green Fest**

Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wilder Park \* Elmhurst Public Library \* Elmhurst College

### **Annual Dues Reminder**

To be listed in the Annual Directory and Yearbook we must receive your dues by September 1st