



2016-17

League of Women Voters
of Wheaton

serving Wheaton, Carol Stream, Warrenville, West Chicago and Winfield

Members Handbook

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THE MEMBER DIRECTORY IS SENT & UPDATED VIA EMAIL

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHEATON, ILLINOIS - BYLAWS

Article I

As amended May 2014

Name

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Wheaton. This local league is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

ARTICLE II

As amended May 2014

Purpose and Policy

Section 1. Purpose. The purposes of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. The League of Women Voters of Wheaton serves the residents of Carol Stream, Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton, and Winfield.

Section 2. Policy. The League of Women Voters of Wheaton may take action on local governmental measures and policies that are in the public interest and in conformity with the principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States. It shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III

As amended May 2015

Membership

Section 1. Types of Membership.

- (a) Voting members shall be citizens at least 18 years of age.
- (b) Associate members shall be all other members.
- (c) Student members (individuals who are 25 years or under, but no less than 18 years of age and enrolled either full or part-time in an accredited institution).
- (d) Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.
- (e) When two members reside at the same address in a common household, they shall be considered household members.

Section 2. How Composed. The membership of the League of Women Voters shall be composed of Voting members and Associate members. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League may become a member upon payment of dues.

ARTICLE IV

As amended May 2014

Board of Directors

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office

- (a) The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the League, six (6) elected Directors, and not more than eight (8) appointed directors. Three (3) directors shall be elected in even-numbered years and three (3) directors shall be elected in odd-numbered years, by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years; or until their

successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding eight (8), as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

- (b) If the immediate past president is neither elected or appointed to the next Board of Directors, such immediate past president shall be considered an ex officio member of the Board to serve without portfolio and without attendance requirement, for a term of one year after retirement from office as President.

Section 2. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless she or he is a voting member of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from the Board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

Section 4. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instruction of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention and the state convention and the annual meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 5. Meetings.

- (a) There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The president may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board.
- (b) Remote Meetings: If circumstances make it inconvenient or impossible for the Board to meet, they may conduct business by holding a meeting through electronic communications, (e.g., e-mail or conference call by telephone). Such meetings shall be referred to as remote meetings. All materials for consideration at a remote meeting must be distributed to all members of the Board. Remote meetings shall count as no more than one half of the nine regular meetings.

Section 6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V

As amended May 2016

Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The Officers of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton shall be the President, two (2) Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general membership at an Annual Meeting. The President, one Vice President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The other Vice President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years. Officers shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in May. No officer shall be elected to more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 2. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts, and notes. With the exception of the Nominating Committee, the President shall, with the

approval of the Board of Directors, appoint committees, task forces and work groups and will serve as ex officio member of same or designate an appointee to do so. The President shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Section 3. Vice Presidents. The two Vice Presidents shall perform such duties as the President and the Board of Directors may designate. The President shall designate a Vice President to serve in her or his absence. In the event of the resignation, disability, or death of the President, the Board of Directors shall elect one of the Vice Presidents to fill the vacancy; if neither Vice President is able to serve, the Board of Directors shall elect another of its members to serve as President.

Section 4. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify all Officers and Directors of their election. The Secretary shall sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

Section 5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of these moneys, shall deposit them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors, and shall disburse the same only upon order of the Board. The Treasurer shall present statements to the Board at its regular meetings and an annual report to the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VI

As amended May 2015

Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton shall commence on the first day of July each year.

Section 2. Dues. Dues shall be paid once per calendar year; new members upon initial joining of the League and renewing members on July 1st. Any member who fails to pay the dues within two months after they become payable (by September 1), shall be dropped from the membership rolls. Any proposed change in the amount of dues shall be submitted in writing to the membership at least one month before the Annual Meeting. Approval of a change shall be by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting at the Annual Meeting. When two members reside at the same address in a common household, their combined dues shall be equal to one and a half times the amount of dues for an individual.

Section 3. Budget. A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted by the Board of Directors to the Annual Meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole.

Section 4. Budget Committee. A budget committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members at least one month before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chairman of the Budget Committee.

Section 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of dissolution for any cause of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton, all moneys and securities owned by the League of Women Voters of Wheaton shall be paid to the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

Section 6. An audit committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors following the annual meeting to review the records of the treasurer. The report shall be presented at the first board meeting in the fall.

ARTICLE VII

As amended May 2016

Meetings

Section 1. Meetings. There shall be at least three (3) program meetings each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. The regular meeting in May shall be the Annual Meeting, unless prior notification is given to the membership. In no event shall the Annual Meeting be later than June 1st. The Annual Meeting shall:

- (a) adopt a Local Program for the ensuing year,
- (b) elect officers and directors and members of the Nominating Committee,
- (c) adopt an adequate budget, and
- (d) transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3. Quorum. Fifteen (15) members shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton.

Section 4. Committee Meetings. Meetings of committees may be held at any time and place designated by the Chairs of such committees.

- (a) Each committee shall develop a Mission Statement and measurable outcomes that will be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- (b) Minutes shall be taken at committee meetings and forwarded to the Secretary of the Board of Directors five days in advance of regularly scheduled Board meetings. These will serve as the monthly report of the committee.
- (c) An annual committee report shall be prepared for the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII**Nominations and Elections**

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The Chairman and two members, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors immediately following the Annual Meeting. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall request suggestions at least three months before the selection of nominees. Suggestions for nominations for Officers and Directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

Section 2. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors, and members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to all members at least one month before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented at the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 3. Elections. The election shall be by ballot, provided that when there is but one nominee for each office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX
Program

Section 1. Authorization. The governmental principles adopted by the National Convention, and supported by the League as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.

Section 2. Program. The Program of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton shall consist of:

- (a) Action to implement the principles, and
- (b) Those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Section 3. Program Selection.

- (a) The Board of Directors shall request recommendations from the voting members at least two (2) months prior to the Annual Meeting.
- (b) The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations proposed by the voting members and shall formulate a Proposed Program which shall be sent to all members at least one month before the Annual Meeting.
- (c) A majority of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors.
- (d) Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members at least one (1) month prior to the Annual Meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that:
 1. The Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote, and
 2. The Annual Meeting shall adopt by a two-thirds vote.
- (e) Changes in the Program, in case of altered conditions, may be made provided that:
 1. Information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a membership meeting at which the change is discussed, and
 2. Final action by the membership is taken at the succeeding meeting.

Section 4. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so by the proper Board of Directors.

Section 5. Local League Action. The League of Women Voters of Wheaton may act only in conformity with, not contrary to, the position taken by the League of Women Voters of the United States as stated in the Principles.

ARTICLE X

As amended May 2013

National Convention, State Convention and State Council

Section 1. National Convention. The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the National office shall select delegates to that Convention in the number allotted to the League of Women Voters of Wheaton under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Section 2. State Convention. The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of the delegates must be sent to the state office shall select delegates to that Convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of Wheaton under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

Section 3. State Council. The President or his or her proxy shall be the delegate to the State Council under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

ARTICLE XI

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

As amended May 2012

Amendments

Section 1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

LWV WHEATON GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

GUIDELINES FOR JOINING COALITION

1. The coalition's major issues should mesh with League positions and be non-partisan, though there need not be a League position on every issue with which the coalition is concerned. The aims of the coalition must not conflict with League positions.
2. The major goals of the coalition should be in accord with League program.
3. The coalition's activities should bring added effectiveness to the overall efforts to achieve the League's organization advocacy or educational goals.
4. The members of the coalition should be organizations with which the League can work effectively. The League should have confidence in the leadership of the coalition and may serve in a leadership capacity.
5. Expenditures for work with the coalition (including staff and volunteer time, as well as cash and in-kind expenses) should be worth the investment.
6. Joining or resigning from a coalition should be a board decision.
7. The League representative to a coalition should be approved annually by the League board.
8. The League representative to a coalition must have the prior approval of the League president or her designee before making any statement of League position on an issue.

NON-PARTISAN POLICY

Revised May 2012, September 2015

Reaffirmed June 2014, June 2016,

The spirit of non-partisan policy is not to see how much political activity is possible within the policy, but to be actively and honestly non-partisan.

If the League is to be effective in the community, the community must be convinced that the League is truly a non-partisan organization which will support issues only and will never support candidates.

The League of Women Voters must be non-partisan so that:

1. The League position on an issue can be readily accepted as unbiased and independent.
2. The League's Voter Service work will have wide public acceptance and trust.
3. The League will not be beholden to any political party or faction.
4. The League membership and board positions will appeal to those of varying political views.

Although League members are encouraged to be active politically, some restrictions must be placed upon board members within certain areas. These areas and restrictions are as follows:

PUBLIC OFFICE - A Board member shall not run for, nor hold, any partisan elective office at any level of government. A Board member may run for or hold a local nonpartisan elective office.

PUBLIC BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, OR COMMITTEES - Any board member may be appointed to an official board, commission or committee if that body is clearly non-partisan. The member shall inform the board of his/her intention to accept such appointment promptly. As a member of the board, commission, or committee, the League board member must act as an individual and may not speak for or represent the League without permission of the League board. If a conflict should arise between the official position of the board, commission, or committee and the position of the League, the conflict should be reviewed by the Board of Directors of the League and a course of action decided on which will specify the League's position publicly. (Examples: Library Board, Plan Commission, Zoning Board)

The board may encourage and assist League members in securing appointments to government boards, commissions, and committees. These recommendations shall be approved by the board and shall be compatible with League positions. Recommendations of non-members shall require board approval.

CAUCUS DELEGATES - Any board member (with the exception of the president, voter service, and finance chairman) may serve as a caucus delegate.

SUPPORT OF CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE - The following board members shall not support candidates for any public office whether or not the candidate wears the label of a political party: president, voter service, and finance chair.

PARTICIPATION IN A POLITICAL PARTY - A board member may join the political party of his/her choice and attend any meeting of his/her party. However, the board member may not hold office in a political party or organization during his/her term of office on the League board. Exceptions: any board member (except the president, voter service or finance chairman) may serve as an election judge, poll watcher, or precinct committeeman with board approval. The board must consider the political sensitivity of the portfolio involved.

Board members may attend fundraising events and make campaign contributions on local, state, and national levels.

PUBLIC ISSUES - It is not wise for a League board member to be identified with a highly controversial issue on which the League has not taken a stand, since there may be confusion on the part of the public as to the League's place in the controversy. Situations of this sort will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

RESIGNATIONS - If a board member chooses to engage in political activity beyond the extent defined in the above guidelines, he/she shall resign from the board as soon as he/she has decided on such a course of action. The resignation shall be publicized and the vacant position filled promptly. The resignation shall be in effect for the remainder of the League year.

INTERPRETATION - In situations not specifically covered in this policy statement, each board member should use their own discretion in consultation with the Board, keeping in mind the reasons for and the spirit of the League's non-partisan character.

The ultimate responsibility for interpretation of the policy rests with the Board of Directors.

REVIEW - The non-partisan policy shall be reviewed each year at the April board meeting and then presented to the membership.

DIVERSITY POLICY

Adopted May 2000, Reviewed June 2005, Reaffirmed June 2014

The League of Women Voters of Wheaton, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in and commitment to diversity and pluralism. The LWV of Wheaton recognizes that diverse perspectives are necessary for responsible and effective decision-making in democratic organizations. LWV of Wheaton affirms its commitment to: remove barriers to participation in any League activity on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion or national origin, and to actively seek to be inclusive.

CANDIDATE PARTICIPATION POLICY

Adopted August 7, 2014

Candidates' forums or debates sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Wheaton are held to provide a venue for thoughtful discussion of the important issues before the voters. The League seeks to stimulate voter interest and participation with these events.

The LWV Wheaton will identify races to feature in any particular election and invite all qualified candidates for those races to participate.

A Candidate may participate if he or she meets each of the following criteria:

- A. CONSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY – The candidate must meet the requirements of the Illinois and the United States Constitutions.
- B. ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTIES – Persons who have filed under an Established Political Party (as defined in the Illinois Election Code by the State Board of Elections) for this election will be considered as qualified candidates.
- C. NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS - Candidates must have filed for the election with the DuPage County Election Commission.
- D. FORMAL CAMPAIGN – The candidate must show evidence that a formal campaign is being waged, such as campaign headquarters, campaign staff/volunteers, position papers, and campaign appearances.
- E. VOTER INTEREST – The candidate must demonstrate significant voter interest and support as evidenced by receipt of ten percent of support in one or more statewide nonpartisan public opinion polls conducted at least fourteen days, but not more than forty days, prior to the debate. Note: Voter interest is only applicable for state and federal offices.
- F. THE CANDIDATE ACCEPTS INVITATION – The candidate must formally accept the invitation to participate in the forum and acknowledge their agreement to follow all rules and deadlines outlined in the invitation.

LWV WHEATON LOCAL PROGRAM (POSITIONS) 2016 - 2017

Local Government

Local Government Bodies: *Revised May 2014*

We believe in representative government by districts when geographic population distribution allows. For the city of Wheaton, we support Council-Manager government with no fewer than six councilpersons and one Mayor. Four councilpersons should be elected from districts and two councilpersons and one mayor should be elected at large. In drawing district boundaries, the League of Women Voters of Wheaton agrees with present Illinois State Statute (65 ILCS 5/5-2-18.2) (from Ch. 24, par. 5-2-18.2) Sec. 5-2-18.2) which stipulates: "The city council shall divide the city, whenever necessary thereafter, into districts which shall be of as compact and contiguous territory as practicable of approximately equal population."

Home Rule: *Revised May 2014*

We support Home Rule for the City of Wheaton and DuPage County.

Zoning and Annexation: *Revised May 2014*

We support professional planning to balance residential and commercial development with substantial open space; the maintenance of a viable central business district and, where compatible, expansion of the tax base.

Cable TV: *Removed May 2014*

Social Policies

Housing:

- We support Open Housing.
- We support housing units and housing assistance for low and moderate income families, senior citizens, and the disabled.

Parks and Recreation: *Adopted June 2016*

Park and recreation systems provide services through local, state, and national agencies. On the local level for the LWV of Wheaton, and our surrounding communities (Carol Stream, Warrenville, West Chicago, Winfield) these services are provided by park districts, special recreation associations, and the DuPage County Forest Preserve.

Illinois is one of the few states that has separate, autonomous units of government of park districts. These units of government have separate elected boards of commissioners, tax levies, and budgets that are not part of a city, village or town. Boundaries of park districts do not have to match, and seldom do match, the city's boundaries.

Special recreation associations are unique to Illinois based on legislation in the 1970's to create cooperative programs serving people with disabilities across many communities. These associations have boards made up of representatives from each member community, regardless of whether it is a park district or recreation department.

The goals of these local public systems are to help preserve land for conservation, active and passive recreation, and improve the quality of life for their residents of all ages. Through productive leisure activities and pursuits, people can engage in fitness and intellectual challenges, gain new skills, and enhance social outlets.

1. Park and recreation systems should offer a variety of diverse recreation activities for all age groups, with consideration of different ability levels, languages, cultural background, financial ability to pay, and time and location.
2. Park and recreation systems should plan for the on-going and future needs of the community and review these masterplans on a regular basis for the cost and value to the community through the input of the community.
3. Park and recreation agencies should seek to stretch their resources through partnerships, intergovernmental agencies and/or external funding sources.
4. Park and recreation agencies should develop and maintain walking and biking path systems. These systems should link to other existing systems.
5. Park and recreation systems should utilize environmental practices, products, and assist with storm water diversion to reduce flooding.
6. Park and recreation systems should maintain a balanced budget.
7. Park and recreation systems should hire and retain qualified, educated professionals in all administrative positions.
8. Park and recreation systems should provide for continuing education opportunities for all staff.
9. Park and recreation systems should strive to be accessible to participants with differing abilities and special needs whenever feasible.

Transportation: *Revised June 2016*

We support and encourage bicycling for transportation and recreation wherever and whenever possible. Whenever city streets are upgraded, planners should evaluate ways to make cycling safer and implement bike lanes where feasible. Planners at the municipal and county level should coordinate bicycle path routes in order to enable cyclists to travel to different areas, for both transportation and recreation.

The League supports a bus system for Wheaton and encourages the coordination of the Wheaton system with systems throughout the region, rather than owned and operated by Wheaton. Ridership might be increased by publishing routes, times and destinations at bus stops or in the local newspaper, newsletter, etc. Pullover lanes might be added on heavily traveled roads, so as not to hinder traffic flow.

Planners at the municipal and county level should coordinate travel routes and parking options in order to enable people to travel efficiently to all areas of the region.

Health Care: *Revised May 2014*

We support improved access to health care and improved coordination of preventive health service.

Education: *Revised May 2014*

We reaffirm our support of quality education. Quality education should be sufficiently diverse to meet the needs of all students. Public education should provide a foundation for lifelong learning, which includes critical thinking and communication skills, as well as fundamental knowledge to function independently in society.

Some of the ways to achieve these goals include:

- reasonable and appropriate class size
- teachers and administrators who meet high professional standards
- teachers and administrators maintained in positions for which they are trained
- quality and equity throughout the system of physical plant, program and materials
- mutual trust and communication between the community and school system

Adequate resources are necessary to accomplish these goals, and they should include sufficient constitutionally-mandated state funding and exploration of alternative sources of funding. We support a balanced budget, but not at the expense of quality education.

It is in the interest of the entire community to invest in and support public education. Moreover, the League firmly believes it is also the obligation of the citizens of a participatory democracy to support public education to foster an informed electorate.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016 – 2017

NAME	OFFICERS	TERM ENDS
Patricia Schwarze	President	May 2017
Liz Quigg	Vice-President (Webmaster)	May 2017
Shannon Burns	Vice-President	May 2018
Barbara Laimins	Secretary	May 2017
Nancy Wilen	Treasurer	May 2018
ELECTED DIRECTORS		
Mary Tworek-Tupper	Communications	May 2017
Carrie Fullerton	Membership	May 2018
Allene Harding	Voter Registration	May 2017
Barbara Kilton	Budget Committee	May 2017
Diane Knable	Book Club	May 2017
Paula McGowen	Consolidation of Governments	May 2018
APPOINTED DIRECTORS		
Kate Forhan	Education	May 2017
OFF BOARD POSITIONS		
None		
2017 NOMINATING COMMITTEE		
Olga Rammer	Chair	
Jane Hodgkinson	Non-board member	
Roberta Jacobson	Non-board member	
Shannon Burns	Board member	
Nancy Wilen	Board member	

BUDGET 2016-2017

EXPENSES		
		Notes
Affiliations		
Greater Wheaton Chamber	165	
LWVIL PMP	1845	
LWVUS PMP	1968	
Lake Michigan LWV	25	
Other Affiliations	385	Carol Stream & Western DuPage chambers
Delegates and Travel		
National or State Conventions	1500	
Workshops or regional meetings	100	
General Administration		
Board Tools	50	
LWV President	50	
Operating Costs		
Cost of finance drive	200	
PayPal expense	30	
Insurance	85	
Postage	250	
Printing	25	
Website fee	225	
Programs and Activities		
Action	0	
Annual dinner expense	0	
General meetings and programs	300	
Member recruitment and retention	300	
Publications	100	
Special events	250	
Voter service	100	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,953	

INCOME		
		Notes
Contingency income	0	
Fund raisers	0	
Interest income	0	
LWV dues	5270	Paid memberships: 58 individual, 13 household, 1 student.
Member contributions	500	
Non-member contributions	1,000	
TOTAL INCOME	6,770	
Deficit:	1,183	

ACTIVE COMMITTEES 2016 - 2017

We welcome interested members to join a committee at any time.

Audit Committee:

- Lori Miller, Chair
- Roberta Jacobson

Book Club:

- Diane Knable, Chair

Budget:

- Shannon Burns, Chair
- Barbara Kilton
- Nancy Wilen

Bylaws:

- Missey Wilhelm, Chair

College of DuPage League Cooperative

- Diane Niesman, Coordinator *pro tem*

Communications:

- Mary Tworek-Tupper, Chair
- Liz Quigg
- Patricia Schwarze
- Missey Wilhelm

Consolidation of Governments

- Paula McGowen, Chair

Drinks & Discussion (2):

- Jane Hodgkinson, Chair

Economic Development:

- Jan Kay, Chair
- Martha Barmantje
- Emily Consolazio
- Barbara Deli
- Mary Wachter

Education:

- Kate Forhan, Chair

Housing:

- Jan Kay, Chair
- Barbara Deli

Membership:

- Carrie Fullerton, Chair

Observer Corp:

- *To be re-established if possible*
- Jan Kay observing City of Wheaton

Programs & Advocacy:

- *To be filled*

Environmental:

- Barbara Wonser, Chair
- Diane Knable
- Diane Niesman

Voter Service:

- Barbara Laimins, Candidate Forums
- Shannon Burns
- Allene Harding, Voter Registration

Ways & Means/Finance Drive:

- Shannon Burns
- Patricia Schwarze
- Nancy Wilen

GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

For information on local government boards and commission and when they meet, please visit these websites:

CITY OF WHEATON

www.wheaton.il.us

City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 260-2000

VILLAGE OF CAROL STREAM

www.carolstream.org

Municipal Center, 500 N. Gary Ave., Carol Stream, IL 60188
(630) 665-7050

CITY OF WARRENVILLE

www.warrenville.il.us

City Hall, 28W701 Stafford Pl., Warrenville, IL 60555
(630) 393-9427

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

westchicago.org

City Hall, 475 Main St., West Chicago, IL 60185
(630) 293-2200

VILLAGE OF WINFIELD

www.villageofwinfield.com

Village Hall, 27 W. 465 Jewell Rd., Winfield, IL 60190
(630) 933-7100

OTHER BOARDS: COUNTY, SCHOOLS, PARKS, LIBRARIES, TOWNSHIPS

Community College District 502 (College of DuPage)	425 22 nd Street Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 www.cod.edu/about/board_of_trustees/index.aspx
Community Unit School District 200 (Wheaton- Warrenville)	School Service Center 130 W. Park Wheaton IL 60189 www.cusd200.org

Winfield Public School District 34	OS. 150 Winfield Road Winfield, IL 60190 www.winfield34.org/
West Chicago District 33	312 E. Forest Avenue West Chicago, IL 60185 www.wego33.org/
Benjamin School District 25 (Carol Stream-West Chicago)	28W250 St. Charles Road West Chicago, IL 60185 www.bendist25.org/
Community High School District 94 (West Chicago)	312 Forest Avenue West Chicago, IL 60185 www.d94.org/
Glenbard District 87 (Carol Stream)	596 Crescent Boulevard Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 www.glenbard87.org/
DuPage County Board	DuPage County Government Center 421 N. County Farm Road Wheaton, IL 60187 www.dupageco.org
Forest Preserve Commission of DuPage County	Forest Preserve Headquarters 3S.580 Naperville Road Wheaton, IL 60189 www.dupageforest.com
Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners	Wheaton Park District Administrative Office 102 W. Wesley St. Wheaton, IL 60187 www.wheatonparkdistrict.com
Carol Stream Park District Board of Commissioners	910 N. Gary Avenue Carol Stream, IL 60188 www.csparks.org/about-us/board-of-commissioners/
Warrenville Park District Board of Commissioners	3S.260 Warren Ave. Warrenville, IL 60555 www.warrenvilleparks.org/about/commissioners.asp
Winfield Park District Board of Commissioners	ON.020 County Farm Road Winfield, IL 60190 www.winfieldparkdistrict.com/Pages/GeneralInfo.aspx?section=Board+Meetings+and+Info
West Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners	201 W. National Street West Chicago, IL 60185 www.we-goparks.org/#!board-of-commissioners/c1h2d
Carol Stream Public Library	616 Hiawatha Drive Carol Stream, IL 60188 www.cslibrary.org/

Warrenville Public Library	28W751 Stafford Place Warrenville, IL 60555 www.warrenville.com/
West Chicago Public Library	118 West Washington Street West Chicago, IL 60185 www.westchicago.lib.il.us/
Wheaton Public Library	225 N. Cross Street Wheaton, IL 60187 www.wheatonlibrary.org/
Winfield Public Library	OS291 Winfield Road Winfield, IL 60190 www.winfield.lib.il.us/
Milton Township	1492 N. Main Street Wheaton, IL 60187 http://www.miltontownship.net/
Wayne Township	27W031 North Avenue West Chicago, IL 60185 www.waynetwp-il.org/home
Winfield Township	130 Arbor Avenue West Chicago, IL 60185 www.winfieldtownship.com/SD/Winfield/default.aspx

YOUR LEAGUE MEMBERS SERVING ON GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Many members of the League of Women Voters serve their community as appointed members of government boards and commissions. These are nonpartisan positions.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appointed Position</u>	<u>Community</u>
Shannon Burns	Plan Commission	Warrenville
Emily Consolazio	Group Care Home Commission	Wheaton
Jan Kay	Housing Commission	Wheaton
Barbara Laimins	Plan Commission, Chair	West Chicago
Patricia Schwarze	Group Care Home Commission, Chair	Wheaton
Donald Westlake	Band Commission	Wheaton
Barbara Wonser	Library Board	Wheaton

USEFUL WEBSITES AND LINKS

This Members Handbook contains useful basic information for members of the Wheaton League of Women Voters. Much of this information is updated annually, in conjunction with our annual meeting, generally in May. The LWVIL and LWVUS information is updated after their bi-annual conventions. LWVUS conventions are in even years; LWVIL conventions are in odd years.

League of Women Voters of Wheaton www.wheatonlwwil.org

Who we are, how to join us, our positions, voter registration information, and links to the cities we service: Wheaton, Warrenton, West Chicago, Carol Stream and Winfield.

Wheaton LWV calendar of meetings and events www.wheatonlwwil.org/calendar.html

Wheaton LWV Board of Directors www.wheatonlwwil.org/Board.html

Wheaton LWV on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/wheatonlwwil

Political directory (National, State & Local) www.wheatonlwwil.org/files/political_directory.pdf

Registration and voting information www.wheatonlwwil.org/elections.html

Tips on being a Letter Lobbyist www.wheatonlwwil.org/files/lobbying_tips.pdf

League of Women Voters of Illinois website www.lwwil.org

Where We Stand 2015-2017 Platform of LWVIL www.lwwil.org/where-we-stand-new.html

League Principles www.weebly.com/uploads/1/5/9/8/15985276/where_we_stand_2013-2015_web.pdf#page=5

Contact Information Illinois Elected Officials www.lwwil.org/elected-officials.html

Government Links Federal, state, Cook County & Chicago www.lwwil.org/government-links.html

Legislative Guide www.lwwil.org/legislative-guide.html

Making Your Voice Heard Influencing the political process www.lwwil.org/making-your-voice-heard.html

League of Women Voters of the U.S. website www.lww.org

Impact on Issues 2014-2016, Companion to Where We Stand
www.lww.org/files/Impact%20on%20Issues%202014-2016%20Full%20PDF.pdf

Positions in Brief Summary from Impact on Issues www.lww.org/files/loi2012_PositionsInBrief.pdf

The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform www.ilcampaign.org

A project of the LWVIL Education Fund and Joyce Foundation, a national leader in analyzing political donations. Updated campaign donation information.

The Illinois General Assembly www.ilga.gov

ILGA website allows you to watch or listen to sessions, research bills, find your legislators and more.

LEAGUE GLOSSARY

BOARD - Officers and directors who meet monthly, except July, to direct the League's business. Open to all members.

BUDGET - A detailed estimate of the financial needs and income of the League. Prepared by an appointed committee, presented to the Board, and adopted by members at the annual meeting. Our budget year runs from July 1 to June 30.

CITIZEN INFORMATION SERVICE - A tax-exempt education arm of the Illinois League. Publishes educational material and distributes some League publications. (See also League of Women Voters Education Fund)

CONCURRENCE and CONSENSUS - See next page for discussion of these terms.

GENERAL MEETING - Meeting held to present a speaker or to act as a body. At the annual meeting held in May, the membership selects officers and directors, adopts local program, and conducts other business.

INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION (ILO) - Members of all the local Leagues in an area organize to promote the purposes of the League and to study and take action on governmental matters of common concern.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND (LWVEF) - The tax-exempt non-lobbying organization that provides Leagues and the public with research, publications, and other resources.

NON-PARTISAN POLICY - The League is at all levels non-partisan. Our by-laws state: "The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate." Our local non-partisan policy is interpreted and applied to each specific situation by our Board of Directors.

OBSERVER - League member who attends community meetings and writes reports of the proceedings. An observer does not participate in the meetings or speak for the League.

PER MEMBER PAYMENT (PMP) - Percentage of dues payable to LWVUS and LWVIL for each member.

PROGRAM - Governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

STUDY COMMITTEE - Research committee formed with a leader to study program items and present information to members in order to reach member agreement (consensus).

TIME FOR ACTION (TFA) - A call for action by League members to express support for or opposition to legislation. Action may include lobbying, monitoring, and litigation. TFA is usually issued by the Illinois or U.S. League of Women Voters.

UNIT MEETING - A general membership meeting to give information and organized discussion of an item in the League program. Goal of the informed discussion is objectivity, with emphasis on achieving tolerance of all points of view, leading to quality consensus. Guests are always welcome.

VOTER - Bulletin published at local, state and national levels of the League and sent to every paid member of a local League.

VOTER SERVICE - Year round activity of the League intended to help achieve informed citizen participation in government. Service may include compiling and distributing factual information on political parties, issues, candidates, voter's registration, polling places and other election procedures.

CONCURRENCE AND CONSENSUS- DISCUSSION

A few words about the term “consensus”: The American Heritage Dictionary defines consensus as “collective opinion or concord; general agreement or accord.” In these guidelines “consensus is used (1) interchangeably with the term “member agreement” to refer to the *overall decision making process* (includes various methods such as questionnaires, polls, etc.) by which substantial agreement among members is reached on an issue, and (2) to refer to a *specific technique* used traditionally in the League to discuss and arrive at conclusions on issues (e.g., at unit meetings).

Before the League can act, members must agree in broad terms on what they think about various aspects of the issue. The board chooses from a number of processes that can be used singly or in combination to reach a decision about a program. Regardless of the process used, members should have an opportunity to become informed on the issue either through League or community resources before being asked to decide. The board chooses the approach to be used, recognizing that since issues are different in scope they need not all be treated alike. The nature of an issue will bear on how it is studied and how decisions are reached.

Whatever procedure is used, set ground rules at the beginning so that members will understand the process and the board will be helped in formulating the position based on member input and agreement. For example, if the consensus method (see section below) is combined with a member questionnaire (e.g., a bulletin tear-off), how will the replies of one or the other be weighted? If a questionnaire only is used, must a minimum number of members reply for the results to be valid?

Consensus/group discussion - Utilized as a technique for reaching member agreement, consensus is a process whereby members participate in a group discussion of an issue. The consensus” reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity, but refers to the overall “sense of the group” as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions.

The resource committee frames discussion questions which the board approves. These are presented during the study as a basis for member discussion. They help guide the study and focus discussion on the points that will ultimately be a part of the statement of position.

The board may wish to vary the procedure for some issues. Instead of developing discussion guidelines for consensus, it may design “reaction statements” to lead into and guide discussion. Member agreement emerges from the give and take that comes from group interaction and exchange of viewpoints. The stimulation of listening to and participating in the discussion and decisions can be an exciting experience.

Questionnaires - The board may decide to send a questionnaire to the entire membership or to a sampling. This can be sent in a special mailing or enclosed in the bulletin as a tear-off. It can repeat discussion questions or have completely distinct questions. It can be of the “yes/no/but” variety and may or may not invite comments.

Telephone polls - Member attitudes on issues can be sought on the telephone. If telephone polling is used either for the total membership or for a representative sampling, be sure members know the dates the calls will be made and the questions they will be asked, so they will be prepared to answer.

Concurrence - Concurrence is the act of agreeing with—or concurring with—a position. Concurrence has been a decision-making technique used by the League for some time. Concurrence can take place in many ways. Groups of League members or League boards can concur with:

- recommendations of a resource committee or a unit group;
- decision statements formulated by League boards;
- positions reached by another League or Leagues.

FOUNDING OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHEATON

by Marget Hamilton, Organizer and First President

I moved from Barrington to Wheaton in the early 1950's and was dismayed to find there was no League of Women Voters. When I would inquire about a League or about some organization that might be interested and active in politics, I was always referred to the Women's Republican Club, which was not quite what I was looking for. I did find out finally that there was a League in Glen Ellyn, and my mother-in-law Nell and I joined. As I recall, there were four other Wheatonites who were members of the Glen Ellyn League: Bea Decker, Elsa Helfrich, Jean Boe, and Katy Fitzgerald.

At that time the League was organized into study groups, and the Wheaton contingent made up one group. We became more and more anxious to take action on local issues: 1) the park district badly needed funds. All referendums in recent memory had lost. 2) Zoning issues (some things never change!) 3) Inadequate storm sewers - Louise Heininger had marks on her wall with dates showing high water marks! She lived in the Hawthorne subdivision, which was perfectly flat! Obviously Wheaton needed us!

The national League reiterated its policy firmly: No action can be taken unless the League is organized on a municipal level.

About that time I was asked to take the presidency of the Glen Ellyn League, and I decided, "No, if I'm going to work that hard, I will try to start a League in Wheaton." We had grown to about 10-12 Wheaton members in the Glen Ellyn League. National sent out a representative to give us guidance and we "went at it".

First, we had to call a public, advertised organizational meeting, essentially to tell Wheaton, "Here we are!" We met at the Methodist Church on a rainy day, with maybe 25 people showing up.

I had already received some unpleasant phone calls about "a subversive organization" and the local newspaper, which will remain unnamed, practically threatened when they said they were sending a reporter. I was confused - the Barrington League had never gone through this!

While I was presiding at the meeting, two ladies in the third row asked, "Why do you think this organization is necessary in Wheaton? What exactly do you do?" I invited them to attend a study group and join later if they were interested. Betty Hamilton and her mother, Mary Ivey, became two of my dearest friends, and brought home anew the fact that one of the most important fringe benefits of League membership is lasting friendships.

We were a provisional League for about 1½ years - they extended the time frame for us. During that time we carried on the state and national agendas and made a thorough study of local government, and we quickly recognized that the county and township boards and the city council felt threatened by our diligent representatives taking copious notes at their meetings. Local government heads became a little impatient with our constant questions - but we persevered!

We did not have a dime! Pat Smith and I called on the president of the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce - a meeting that I shall never forget. Somehow we persuaded him to finance the publication of the Wheaton Profile. It was still a "shoestring" project, and we sought help from everyone. It became a true community project. Husbands became so involved we were afraid they might take over. With lots of fun and lots of hard work, the first Wheaton Profile was published in 1956. The Chamber of Commerce was pleased. National League was pleased - and we became a recognized part of the League of Women Voters.

Bear with me for a few more minutes while I tell you of the humorous incident that further explained why the community and the local press reacted so strongly to our presence.

One of our national agenda items was a study of the so-called "national security" legislation being proposed by state and national governments. Remember that the House Un-American Activities Committee was still in existence and was publishing regularly a list of "suspicious" organizations. The League of Women Voters was on that list, incredible as it may seem.

In addition, Joe McCarthy was going strong, and a local organization based in Wheaton was beating the drum for McCarthy.

In the Wheaton League one of our primary concerns was the proposal to require all public school teachers to sign a loyalty oath. No other profession was singled out for this demeaning treatment.

The Wheaton League, as was customary, publicized its monthly meeting as a discussion of proposed loyalty oaths. We were accustomed to having a small contingent of McCarthy's local followers at our meetings, but this was a mob scene!

I opened the meeting by reading the famous Smith Act and its definition of subversive action, which included the phrase, "overthrow of the government by force and violence." A very heated, lengthy, good debate ensued and I went home satisfied that we had enjoyed an informative, enlightening experience.

The next morning at about 10 a.m. my front door bell rang, and a very young, pink-cheeked lad introduced himself as an agent of the F.B.I. He said I had been reported to the F.B.I. because at the previous night's meeting I had advocated overthrow of the government by force and violence.

I explained to him about the League agenda. He had never heard of the League of Women Voters. I told him all agenda items were on file at the Library of Congress. He was surprised. I asked him if he had ever heard of the Smith Act. He had not. I read it to him. He was surprised. I asked who had reported me to the F.B.I. He said it was a person at the meeting, but he could not give out names. I questioned that. He was adamant. I told him I was impressed with the fact that the meeting had adjourned about midnight and he was at my door at 10 a.m. He told me that the F.B.I. was very efficient. I did not hear from him again.

Many years later, when I presented the Fair Housing Ordinance to the Wheaton City Council, my life was threatened and the F.B.I. recommended that the Wheaton police assign me a bodyguard. By that time I was on a first-name basis with the F.B.I. agent in this area and one day, over lunch, I told him my "Smith Act" story and he was highly amused.

(Note: The Fair Housing Ordinance was a cooperative venture of Bill Pollard, Hartman Stime, and Marget Hamilton, with some input from the NAACP.)

LWV OF WHEATON PRESIDENTS

Marget Hamilton	1955
Ruth Eichelberg	1957
Evelyn Anise	1959
Marion Davis	1961
Sheila Sidles	1964 (?)
Priscilla Kopf	1965 (?)
Pat Smith	1967 (?)
Pat Taylor	1969 (?)
Jo Schleicher	1971 - 73
Gail Peterson	1973 - 75
Pat Vary	1975 - 77
Lydia Booth	1977 - 79
Beverly Logan	1979 - 81
Susanna Davison	1981 - 83
Helen King	1983 - 85
Fran Culler	1985 - 87
Maggie Lane	1987 - 89
Pam Westerbeck	1989 - 91
Mary Lee Kropp	1991 - 93
Jan Kay	1993 - 95
Mary Lee Kropp	1995 - 96
Susanna Davison	1996 - 97
Judi Jacobs	1997 - 99
Barbara Pape	1999 - 01
Patricia Schwarze	2001 - 03
Lori Miller	2003 - 05
Jan Kay	2005 - 09
Missey Wilhelm	2009 - 11
Executive Committee	2011 - 13
(Missey Wilhelm, Liz Quigg, Olga Rammer, Diane Niesman)	
Missey Wilhelm	2013 - 15
Executive Committee	2015 - 16
(Liz Quigg, Olga Rammer, Patricia Schwarze, Nancy Wilen)	
Patricia Schwarze	2016 - 17