



61st Annual Meeting - May 19, 2016

League of Women Voters of Wheaton

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PROGRAM FOR THE 61ST ANNUAL MEETING

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHEATON
61ST ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 19, 2016

Welcome Liz Quigg

Call to Order of 61ST Annual Meeting Liz Quigg

Quorum established Liz Quigg

Adoption of Rules for Annual Meeting Liz Quigg

Minutes of 60th Annual Meeting Patricia Schwarze

Presentation and Adoption of 2016-2017 Budget Shannon Burns

Proposal to Increase Dues..... Patricia Schwarze

Bylaws Committee Report Patricia Schwarze

Program Planning Diane Niesman

Local Positions Diane Niesman

- Parks & Recreation
- Transportation

Nomination and Election of Officers and Directors Roberta Jacobson

Introduction of New Board for 2016-17 Roberta Jacobson

Presentation of Marget Hamilton Award Liz Quigg

Direction to Board League Members

Moving Forward League President

Adjournment

Dinner

Secretary for the Annual Meeting Patricia Schwarze

Parliamentarian Shannon Burns

RULES FOR THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

Parliamentary procedures are tools to expedite fair, full and orderly considerations of business before the annual meeting. These procedures are contained in our by-laws, the Order of Business, and Rules Adopted at the Meeting, and, where applicable, *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised*. Rules of the Meeting are adopted by a majority vote, but may be changed by a two-thirds vote.

Voting	Only members of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton may make motions and vote. The chair will decide which method of voting should be used.
Admission	No member may be admitted to the meeting during the time a motion is being presented, debated, or acted upon. This rule is made so that no member may vote on an issue on which he/she has heard only one part of the discussion.
Debate	Debate from the floor shall be limited to three minutes. No one shall speak more than once to a question until all who desire the privilege of the floor shall have spoken. The speaker will give his/her name and will state whether he/she speaks for or against the motion.
Recommended Program	The recommended program items will be presented and each will be separately moved and seconded for adoption. No vote will be taken until all recommended and non-recommended items have been presented. Questions will be asked for clarification only; there will be no debate at this time.
Consideration of Non-Recommended Program	Non-recommended* items shall be presented immediately after the presentation of the recommended items. After the motion has been moved and seconded, the member requesting consideration may make a statement limited to five minutes in explanation of the reason for asking consideration. Only questions for clarification may be asked. Then the vote to consider is taken, a majority is required to pass. If a non-recommended item is voted consideration by the Annual Meeting, the board shall be allowed five minutes to explain its reason for not recommending the item.
Discussion	There will be discussion and debate on the recommended and non-recommended items, which have been voted consideration. Amendments may be proposed and voted on at this time. Final action on program items will be taken once each item has been discussed.
Adoption of Items	The vote will be taken on each item in the order presented. Recommended program items require a majority vote; non-recommended items require a two-thirds majority vote for adoption.

*Our by-laws state that, Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting, but not recommended by the Board of Directors, may be considered by the Annual Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE 60TH ANNUAL MEETING MAY 7, 2015

Dinner and meeting were at Ivy Restaurant, 120 N. Hale Street, Wheaton

1. The 60th annual meeting was called to order at 8:07 p.m. by President Missey Wilhelm. A quorum was declared, as established by Allene Harding.
2. Tom Wilhelm motioned and Nancy Wilen seconded to adopt the rules of the annual meeting. The motion carried.
3. Beryl Jacobson motioned and Tom Wilhelm seconded a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the 59th Annual Meeting. The motion carried.

Martha Barmantje motioned and Ellen Noth seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

4. Shannon Burns presented the 2015-2016 Proposed Budget and reviewed proposed changes in expenses and revenues, which are not balanced. The addition of new members closed the projected shortfall somewhat. LWWUS PMP will be going up in 2015-16 and LWVIL dues will go up in 2016-17. Convention expenses were reduced. We bank online, so there is no banking charge. We use email for most of our communications and business. We increased the events budget to \$250, to account for higher costs for events with speakers such as Illinois Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti. The budget committee recommends that a Ways and Means Committee be established; we need to seek donations, both in kind and in currency.

Roberta Jacobson motioned and Don Westlake seconded a motion to adopt the budget.

Discussion:

Pat Schwarze said that we talked about adding money to the budget for joining both the Western DuPage and the Carol Stream Chambers of Commerce, for a total of \$340. This would be for a trial period of one year.

Pat Schwarze motioned and Barbara Laimins seconded the addition of \$340 to the budget for the two Chambers' dues.

Roberta Jacobson said that there has to be a commitment to raise the money for this addition.

Barbara Laimins called the question. Tom seconded; the motion passed to add \$340 to the budget.

Carrie Fullerton said that she would cover \$150 of the amount for the Chambers' dues; she wrote a check which she gave to Treasurer Nancy Wilen.

Olga Rammer made a motion to adopt the budget as amended; Beryl Jacobson seconded it. The motion passed.

5. Martha Barmantje presented two by-laws committee recommendations:

The first creates a student member status; Emily Consolazio moved and Ellen Noth seconded adoption of this change. The motion passed.

The second sets annual dues for Student Members to one-half the dues for an individual. Discussion followed. There was much discussion about dropping the half-dues membership and removing the sentence "Members who join after January 31st will pay one-half the annual dues".

Roberta Jacobson called the question, and Don Westlake seconded. That passed.

Jane Hodgkinson motioned and Ellen Noth seconded to approve the dues change. By show of hands, the vote of second change was 15 for and 6 against. The motion passed.

The text of the two amended bylaws follows, as changed:

ARTICLE III

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.*

ARTICLE VI

Financial Administration

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.

Annual dues for Student Members shall be equal to one-half the amount of dues for an individual.

6. Diane Niesman presented some statistics on Wheaton LWV's activities. 16 leagues reported program planning results, 5 of them from DuPage. Wheaton was #1 among DuPage Leagues in both number of members participating in the program planning meeting (21) and percentage of membership participating (28%). We were 4th in number of members participating and 5th in percentage of membership participation, compared to the other 16 leagues that participated statewide.

An initiative came out of our program planning meeting: to propose at the State Convention a concurrence on consolidation of governmental units. The concurrence would make a position available now, when we need it.

Our local Programs were not changed at the Program Planning meeting in February 2015. However, members thought that we should have a parks and recreation position. To establish a new position, we need to do a local study of the issues. Carrie Fullerton moved and Pat Schwarze seconded that we do a local study of the issues.

Discussion:

It was noted that our old position was dropped several years ago, as it was outdated. The purpose of a new study is to develop a position on parks and recreation that will cover all communities our League covers

The motion passed.

We need to establish a committee to do the study. Carrie Fullerton volunteered to be on the committee.

7. Barbara Laimins (filling in for Lori Miller) presented the following candidates for two-year terms on the Board of Directors. Tom Wilhelm motioned and Martha Barmantje seconded acceptance of the slate of nominees for the board; the motion passed.

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term will end</u>
No nominee	President	May 2017
Liz Quigg	Vice President	May 2017
Pat Schwarze	Secretary	May 2017
<u>Elected Directors</u>		
Barbara Kilton		May 2017
Diane Knable		May 2017
Allene Harding		May 2017

Barbara Laimins presented the following Nominees for the 2016 Nominating Committee:

Roberta Jacobson	Chair
Denise Niesman, Barbara Wonser	2 Non Board members
To be nominated by board	2 Board Members

Jane Hodgkinson moved Nancy Bielawski seconded that we accept the nominating committee slate; the motion passed.

Missey Wilhelm talked about the executive committee structure which the board will use in the next year. She noted that there will be two additional board members appointed by the board, to fill out one year terms. They are Shannon Burn and Barbara Laimins.

Liz Quigg introduced the Officers and Board of Directors for 2015-16, including the nominees noted above, and Vice President Olga Rammer, Treasurer Nancy Wilen, and Director Diane Niesman.

8. Pat Schwarze told us that she'd heard about Missey Wilhelm, before she came back to the League. She heard Missey was doing great things and was action oriented. Pat said this has been the salvation of the Wheaton LWV. Missey got her to come back on the board. Missey's husband, Tom, supported her all the way. She thanked Missey for all her work on behalf of League. Pat presented a gift certificate to Missey for the Prairie Path Bookstore, good for books or cooking classes. Missey said that she has loved working with League, and is happy to help out with advice in the future.

9. Liz Quigg asked for member direction to the Board. While the members made no suggestions, Missey suggested that we need to redevelop the observer corps, to monitor and keep us abreast of city councils, and of boards like the DuPage Forest Preserve District, park districts and schools. Liz said that the observers were more important in the past; citizens now have videos and the internet to observe these bodies.

10. Missey announced that the June Board of Directors meeting would be on Thursday June 11th at Gary Church at 7:00 PM with old and new Board members.

10. Ellen Noth made a motion to adjourn; Barbara Laimins seconded. The 60th Annual Meeting of the Wheaton League of Women Voters adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by:
Roberta Jacobson, Secretary

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2016-2017

EXPENSES			
	2015-2016 budget	Proposed 2016-2017	Notes
Affiliations			
Great Wheaton Chamber	165	165	
LWVIL PMP	1768.50	1845	Dues increase of \$3 per member
LWVUS PMP	2096	1968	Lower payment reflects reduction in membership
Lake Michigan LWV	25	25	
Other Affiliations	0	385	Carol Stream & Western DuPage Chamber
Delegates and Travel			
National or State Conventions	1500	1500	See note #2 below
Workshops or regional meetings	0	100	
General Administration			
Board Tools	50	50	Not used in 2015-2016
LWV President	50	50	Not used in 2015-2016
Operating Costs			
Cost of finance drive	200	200	See note #3 below
PayPal expense	50	30	\$25 actual in 2015-2016
Insurance	85	85	
Postage	200	250	
Printing	250	25	Actual \$21 in 2015-2016
Website fee	212.50	225	
Programs and Activities			
Action	0	0	
Annual dinner expense	0	0	
General meetings and programs	100	300	
Member recruitment and retention	500	300	See note #4 below
Publications	100	100	
Special events	250	250	
Voter service	100	100	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,702.00	7,978.00	

NOTES:

1. Note that LWVIL dues increased in 2016-2017 to \$30 per member, \$45 per household and 32.50 per student. LWVUS dues increased in 2015-2016 to \$32/individual and \$48 per couple in 2015-2016 and not further increase in 2016-2017.
2. Original budgeted amount for 2015-2016 was 0. Change reflects expected budgeted cost for National Convention participation prior to end of FY 2015-2016.
3. As a result of in-kind contributions of \$165.00 by board members to cover costs, actual cost of finance drive was 0.
4. Board may vote to begin a promotion program that would utilize a portion of this budgeted item for purchase of give away items or printing of flyers for specific events. Member recruitment and retention could also be used for room rental, should the need arise.

INCOME				
		2015-2016	Proposed 2016-2017	Notes
Contingency income		0	0	
Fund raisers		0	0	
Interest income		0	0	
LWV dues		4257	3,997.50	Paid memberships: 58 individual, 13 household, 1 student.
Member contributions		500	500	Actual 1641 See note #1 below
Non-member		1,200	1,000	Actual 750 See note #1 below
TOTAL INCOME		5,957.00	5,497.50	Budget deficit: 1,744.50
NO DUES INCREASE			185.00	65.00 per member; 97.50 per household
DUES INCREASE			1,415.00	Dues 85.00 per member; 127.50 per household
	EXPENSES vs. INCOME			
	Expense	7,978.00		
	Income	5,497.50		
	Deficit: NO dues increase	2,480.50		
	Deficit with dues increase	1,065.50		

NOTES:

1. The LWV of Wheaton may want to consider establishing a Ways and Means committee to explore ways of increasing donations.
2. The budget committee recommends establishing a mechanism for tracking in-kind contributions.

ASSETS INFORMATION: 2/28/2016			
LWVIL Education Fund	0	550	
Certificate of Deposit	7,125.57	0	CD rolled into checking account
Checking	7,685.01	15,115.71	Includes \$550 from education fund
Savings		0	
TOTAL CASH AND BANK ACCOUNTS	14,810.58	15,665.71	
LIABILITIES and EQUITY	0	0	
Liabilities			
Equity	14,810.58	15,416.18	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITIES	14,810.58	15,416.18	

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE DUES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016

In accordance with the bylaws:

Dues do not need to be a bylaw change, just a recommendation (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.):

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton recommends increasing the membership dues to \$85 per member, \$127.50 per household, and \$42.50 for students effective July 1, 2016.

REPORT OF THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE FOR 2016

The following BYLAWS-changes are recommended for consideration by the Board of Directors:

Deletions are indicated by ~~strike throughs~~; additions are underlined.)

Article V – Officers

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. ~~The President shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.~~ With the exception of the Nominating Committee, the President shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, appoint all committees, task forces and work groups and will serve as an 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.

Article VII – Meetings

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.

Submitted by:

Patricia Schwarze
Barbara Kilton
Diane Knable
Barbara Laimins

PROPOSED LOCAL POSITIONS

PARKS & RECREATION POSITION AS PROPOSED

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 POSITION AMENDMENT

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.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2016

The Nominating Committee places the following candidates in nomination for two-year terms (unless otherwise designated) on the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton:

Position	Nominee	Term	Comments (Resident of)
President	Patricia Schwarze	May 2016-17	Agreed to fill second year of term. (Wheaton) <i>Note: 2017-18 nominating committee will nominate President for 2017-19 term.</i>
Vice President	Shannon Burns	May 2016-18	(Warrenville)
Secretary	Barbara Laimins	May 2016-17	Agreed to fill second year of term. (West Chicago)
Treasurer	Nancy Wilen	May 2016-18	Second terms as Treasurer (Winfield)
Director	Liz Corry	May 2016-18	(Wheaton)
Director	Carrie Ann Fullerton	May 2016-18	(Wheaton)
Director	Paula McGowen	May 2016-18	(Glen Ellyn)

For the Nominating Committee:

Chair	Olga Rammer	2017	(Wheaton)
Member	Jane Hodgkinson	2017	(Wheaton)
Member	Roberta Jacobson	2017	(Carol Stream)
Member 4		2017	To be appointed by the board in the fall of 2016
Member 5		2017	To be appointed by the board in the fall of 2016

Recommendations to the board from the nominating committee:

- The new board should appoint three or more newer members to the board for one-year terms. The purpose is to get them involved and to give them a taste of what being on the board is like. Newer members should be given first consideration.
- Give each board member a responsibility/task. They could choose one from a board list or propose an idea of their own, which would have to be approved by the board.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Roberta Jacobson, Chair (Carol Stream)
Barbara Kilton (Warrenville)
Barbara Laimins (West Chicago)
Barbara Wonser (Wheaton)

CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS THROUGH MAY 2017:

Position	Board Member
Vice President	Liz Quigg
Director	Allene Harding
Director	Barbara Kilton
Director	Diane Knable

LEADERSHIP FOR 2015-2016

Thank you to League members who served in leadership positions for the League in 2015-16:

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TERM ENDS</u>
None	President	May 2017
Liz Quigg	Vice President	May 2017
Olga Rammer	Vice President	May 2016
Patricia Schwarze	Secretary	May 2017
Nancy Wilen	Treasurer	May 2016
<u>ELECTED DIRECTORS</u>		
Barbara Kilton		May 2017
Diane Knable		May 2017
Allene Harding		May 2017
Diane Niesman		May 2016
<u>APPOINTED DIRECTORS</u>		
Shannon Burns		May 2016
Barbara Laimins		May 2016

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit	Nancy Wilen, <i>Chair</i>
Book Club	Diane Knable, <i>Chair</i>
Budget	Shannon Burns, <i>Chair</i>
Bylaws	Patricia Schwarze, <i>Chair</i>
Communications	Olga Rammer, <i>Chair</i>
Economic Development	Jan, Kay, <i>Chair</i>
Finance Drive	Shannon Burns, <i>Chair</i>
Housing	Jan Kay, <i>Chair</i>
Membership	Jane Hodgkinson, <i>Chair</i>
• Fair Trade Task Force	Paula McGowen, <i>Chair</i>
Nominating	Roberta Jacobson, <i>Chair</i>
Program & Advocacy	Diane Niesman, <i>Chair</i>
Solid Waste Task Force	Barbara Wonser, <i>Chair</i>
Voter Service	
• Candidate Forums	Barbara Laimins, <i>Chair</i>
• Voter Registration	Allene Harding, <i>Chair</i>

BUDGET

The Budget Committee met March 31, 2016 to prepare the proposed 2016-2017 budgets. Present were Shannon Burns and Nancy Wilen. With a proposed deficit of \$2,480.50 without a dues increase and \$1,065.50 with a dues increase, the proposed budget is not balanced.

Membership

As of January 31 2016 the Wheaton LWV paid membership was 72 total: 1 student, 13 households, 55 individual and 3 honorary.

Per Member Payments

LWVUS dues increased in 2015-2016 to \$32 per member; \$48 per household and did not increase again this year. LWVIL dues increased to \$30 per member, \$45 per household and \$32.50 for student. The LWV of Wheaton does not pay per member payments for the three honorary memberships.

Delegates and Travel

Once again, workshops and regional events were not funded. The LWV of Wheaton anticipates covering some of the cost for board members who wish to attend the upcoming National Convention. Since the convention will occur prior to the close of the 2015-2016 FY, this budget item will be updated in next year's report.

General Administration

Board tools and LWV President remained the same at \$50 each. Since this budget item has not been used in the past few years, the budget committee suggests consideration of omitting this item from the 2017-2018 budget if it is not used in the coming year.

Operating Costs

PayPal was budgeted at \$50.

Programs and Activities

There were no event rental costs for this fiscal year. It is recommended that budgeted funds for member recruitment be used for promotional items, such as pencils and flyers, as well as for room rental, should the need arise.

BUDGET COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS

1. Consider appointing a Ways and Means Committee to explore fund raising ideas and other sources of income. The WLWV needs to actively seek donations from both members and non-members.
2. Consider a formal budget line item to record in-kind contributions.
3. Continue active membership recruitment.

--Shannon Burns

BOOK CLUB

We started off the League year in July when we read *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. A novel about a painting and a young boy who is traumatized by an explosion that alters the trajectory of his life and the development of his character.

Our September book was *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls, a memoir about her poverty-stricken, unconventional upbringing by her dysfunctional parents.

And finally in November we read *The Book of the Unknown Americans* by Christina Henríquez. A contemporary American novel of Latino immigration. This novel primarily revolves around a romance between two young Latino teenagers. Throughout this book however, are short vignettes about the lives of the residents of the Redwood Apartments, where other Latinos live who refer to themselves as the "Unknown Americans."

For 2016 our first meeting was on January 5 at Pat Schwarze's home where the moderator was Di Niesman, and the discussion was on *Dreamers of the Day* by Mary Doria.

The second meeting took place on March 1 at Diane Knables home where the moderator was Nancy Bielawski and we discussed *Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins.

Our next meeting was May 10 at Beryl and Roberta Jacobson's home where we discussed *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert, and the moderator was Liz Quiqq.

At this meeting we will pick the next three books and locations for our meetings which are scheduled for July, September and November.

--Diane Knable

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP

MEMBERS: Emily Consolazio, Mary Wachter, Barb Deli, Martha Barmantje, Jan Kay

MISSION STATEMENT: The EDC promotes the vision to accommodate quality growth within the communities. Local business, community leaders and residents benefit from a viable downtown as well as business corridors and shopping centers.

WORKGROUP EDUCATION: The EDC has met this year with members of various agencies in Wheaton and plans to meet with adjoining communities throughout the coming year. We expanded our Workgroup membership to include a member of one of those communities and plan to do the same with the other communities.

The City of Wheaton has continued in the work of Strategic Planning for the downtown business and the Workgroup has attended these specific meetings as they are called. The last presentation, March 2nd, called upon community persons to view the recent designs for the Downtown Wheaton Strategic Plan and Streetscape Plan which allowed residents to view various plan options which might accommodate more events and increase its business climate. We will be following this work throughout the coming year.

WORKGROUP PLANS: The Workgroup is planning to look at the economic development possibilities of adjoining communities as they arise. West Chicago may be the next community with such.

--Jan Kay

FINANCE DRIVE

	2015 Budget	2016 Actual	2016 Budget
Member Contributions	500	1642.25	500
Non-Member Contributions	1200	750	1000
Total Contributions Received			
2015	1993.50		
2016	2391.25		

Comments

As a result of in-kind contributions from board members, no expenses were incurred as a result of the 2015 finance drive.

The 2015 finance drive solicited contributions from members, local business and elected officials that touch the LWV-Wheaton service area. Contributions were received from 25 members and 8 non-members.

LEGISLATOR INTERVIEW REPORT – SPRING 2016

Due to later appointed leader of the legislator interviews for the Spring 2016, I was not able to get appointments with either of the Wheaton legislators prior to the date of returning the reports to the LWVIL. On March 31st I received a call from the assistant of Rep. Peter Breen saying he will not be available to meet with us until after May 31st.

Since Rep. Breen also represents part of Glen Ellyn and Lombard I plan to contact the Glen Ellyn league in order to set up an interview, even late in the process, with Rep. Breen in order to get his views on our LWVIL legislative questions. He is from Lombard.

We still have not heard from Rep. Jeanne Ives or Sen. Michael Connelly re an interview with them. I will pursue these also.

We did not have to interview Rep. Mike Fortner or Rep. Oberweiss since the larger Kane Co. League did these.

Should the Glen Ellyn League set up an interview time with Rep. Winger, we will try to attend that session as well.

All interviews this year seem to be lacking in interest. As advocates for our League positions on which the legislative questions are based, this lack of knowledge is quite unfortunate.

We count on the thoughts of the local legislators' answers in our advocacy work throughout the year.

--Jan Kay

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

New Members

The Membership Committee of the League was very active in 2015-16. We welcomed new member Chris Crabtree to the league. Chris is a Winfield resident and a member of the School District # 200 Board. In addition to Chris, we were also able to get a majority of our most recent new members involved with league activities. They are:

1. Emily Consolazio- Downtown Wheaton Committee
2. Kerry Dexter-Book Club
3. Susan Drinan
4. Carrie Fullerton-2016 Board Member and Parks Position Study Group member
5. Marilyn Kroll- State league volunteer
6. Erica Loiacono- Publicity
7. Paula McGowen- Independent Map

We want to maximize your membership! Please let us know what your interests are and we will try to direct you. We encourage our more experienced members to help make these people feel welcome at meetings and get-togethers.

In addition to these new members, we have several more individuals who are interested in joining and we will continue to encourage them to do so.

Discussions over Drinks

In 2014-15, the Wheaton League launched the Discussion over Drinks series where we invited former State Representative Sandy Pihos to discuss the Illinois Budget at Ivy Restaurant. Last spring we had Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti discuss her election and the Task Force on Government Consolidation at John and Tony's Restaurant in West Chicago. In October 2015, we invited Dr. Shawn Healy, the Civic Learning Scholar, from the Robert McCormick Foundation Democracy Program to lead a discussion concerning the Independent Map Amendment effort in Illinois. This was held at Cooper's Corner in Winfield. Discussions will continue in the fall of 2016.

Membership Survey and Social Events

Dr. Shannon Burns conducted the membership survey this year in 2015. It revealed that members see the League as an effective group to promote voter turnout and education as well as register voters. These areas are still very important to members.

We tried to continue to add to the social nature of some of our membership meetings this year by continuing the Discussion over Drinks, Book Club, and having the holiday brunch to afford members a way to re-connect with each other. Thanks to PHIL and MARY SUESS who again hosted the League holiday luncheon and to each of the hosts of the book clubs this year.

Memoria-

We want to remember our dear member **Barbara Pape**, who died this past year. Barbara and her husband Art have been very active in the league and were long term members and supporters of the league. She had served as President, headed voter services and the fund-raising drives, served on nominations, and helped arrange many functions. Barbara was one of the many people who welcomed me to the league when I joined. She always met people at the door with a smile and a welcoming manner. We will miss her contributions and her friendship. Our condolences to Art and her family.

Book Club

Book Club has remained active this year, reading and discussing The Glass Castle among other books. Thanks to all who have been involved with organizing it including DIANE KNABLE, ROBERTA JACOBSON, LIZ QUIGG, KERRY DEXTER, NANCY BIELOWSKI, and BARB KILTON.

Membership AWARENESS Events

The League of Women Voters had a display at the Wheaton Public Library for the month of September displaying our annual calendar of events, website and voting information, information about the Independent Map effort in Illinois and a display of an old voting machine.

The LWV of Wheaton was one of the most active groups in securing signatures for the placement of an Independent Map question on the ballot. Many league members worked to secure signatures but two people in particular, PAULA MCGOWEN and DIANE KNABLE made exceptional efforts.

In June we will sponsor a booth at "Taste of Wheaton" with SCARCE to promote proper recycling techniques. If you would be interested in helping with that booth on June 4th, please contact Jane Hodgkinson.

Membership Matters

National League has made membership one of the top priorities for states and local chapters. To this end, Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) has been going on for over two years. The Wheaton League has an MLD coach who reviews our league plans each month for membership development. Through this process we have identified voids in our identification and orientation for new members. If this is an interest of yours, please feel free to volunteer or offer suggestions. We're listening. Thanks to all of the following who helped this year.

Carrie Fullerton, Dr. Shannon Burns, Barb Laimins, Pat Schwarze, Erica Loiacono, Roberta and Beryl Jacobson, Liz Quigg, Jan Kay, Barb Kilton, Marilyn Kroll, Emily Consolazio, Denise Niesman, Barbara Pape, Nancy Wilen, Diane Knable, Allene Harding, Diane Niesman, Missey and Tom Wilhelm

--Jane Hodgkinson

PROGRAM & ADVOCACY

Our 2015-2016 League year saw another schedule of stellar programs covering redistricting, criminalization of the mentally ill, heroin, campaign finance reform, parks and recreation, children in crisis, and stormwater. Almost without exception, the attendance by both members and the public was dismal. We can identify some problems due to lack of publicity and not being proactive enough extending personal invitations to those who might be interested in the topics. But, it doesn't explain the non-participation by our members, since they are reminded repeatedly about the unit meetings, consensus meetings, and the annual program planning meeting.

In an effort to make the Programs and Advocacy committee more effective in planning meetings, a survey was sent in late March to all members. The results of survey will be reported at the May 19 Annual Meeting.

--Diane Niesman

VOTER SERVICE

Voter Service Mission Statement

The League is a non-partisan volunteer political organization that encourages informed and active participation in the democratic process. The mission of the Voter Service Committee is to register voters, and educate, empower and engage voters regarding federal, state and local elections through candidate forums, print and online resources

Candidate Forums

LWV of Wheaton co-sponsored with the Wheaton and Western Chambers of Commerce and LWV Glen Ellyn a candidate forum before the 2016 March Primary. Candidates in contested races for County Board Districts 4 and 6 and State Representative Districts and US Senate Candidates participated and had an opportunity to meet with approximately 90 voters throughout the day. A special thanks to the volunteers from the League and students of Wheaton North.

National Day of Registration

The League participated in the National Day of Registration by coordinating the voter registration of approximately 150 new voters at high schools within the Leagues service area. The day was very successful due to the efforts of Social Studies Teachers at West Chicago Community High School, Glenbard North, Wheaton/Warrenville South and Wheaton North who assisted the League with publicity within the schools.

Community

Voter Registration takes place once a month at the Wheaton Library. The Voter Service committee also assisted the high schools in the service area with mock elections for the primary.

Looking to the Future

The LWV of Wheaton needs to enlist more members to become registrars so that voter registration efforts will have a larger pool of volunteers. We need to investigate innovative ways to educate voters about candidate positions and encourage voter turnout.

--Barbara Laimins, Voter Service

--Allene Harding, Voter Registration

WEBMASTER

We continue to use our website, created and updated with LWV Easyweb. (wheatonlwvil.org) It supports our generic email addresses and provides an online presence for the League. Our website also provides a way for non-members, candidates and others to communicate with us when they have questions.

We had a scare in March when the LWV California warned us that because a disagreement with the LWVUS, it might have to discontinue supporting LWV Easyweb for leagues outside of California. In April, to the relief of the many leagues that use LWV Easyweb, the board of the LWV California made two proposals:

- Short Term Proposal: guarantee service for all LEW users (and accept new users) on the reliable current LEW system through December 2016.
- Long Term Proposal: work with LEW users and and stakeholders between now and the end of June 2016 to identify how best to continue and expand LEW in 2017 and beyond.

Missey Wilhelm and other members have made very good use of Facebook to inform our membership. We now have seventy-six members in our public group and also have a Facebook page. Facebook provides a way to inform our members. We are also using MailChimp for communicating about upcoming events and publishing the Voter.

Our Facebook group is at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wheatonlwvil/>

Our Facebook page is at: <https://www.facebook.com/wheatonlwvil/>

--Liz Quigg

OBSERVER(S)

Wheaton City Council Observer

The Wheaton City Council meets on the first and third Monday evening each month for Council Meetings. The Wheaton City Council meets on the second and fourth Monday evening each month for Council Planning Sessions. These dates may change due to holidays or other allowed reasons and public announcements are given within legal time frames.

There are seven Council voting members including the Mayor. Each quadrant elects their member and there are two Council members and the Mayor who are elected at large.

In addition, the City Manager and City Attorney and City Clerk also are present for each regular Council meeting as well as other City staff members. Planning session staff varies.

As the Wheaton League's observer for the Council, I have represented the League at most meetings throughout the year. The reports are given by the City online and may be viewed on Wheaton's Cable ch. 10 following each meeting. This television opportunity also makes many other City board meetings such as Liquor and Tobacco meetings and Planning and Zoning board available to the public.

The meetings begin with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by a member of the Council, and proceeds with Public Comment. The published Agenda is followed including any reports from the City Manager and City Attorney. The Mayor then proceeds with the Agenda, closing with any Council comments and passing the allowed allotment of paying the expenses preceding dismissal.

In addition to the regular Council meetings, each year in the Spring, the Staff presents the next year's budget proposal to the Council. The funded City projects present their budget request through presentations at one of the budget meetings. Also should a City Commission or project find a need for additional funding, they include this in their presentations which gives the Council the ability to question the Commission's representative on the request.

The Council then, after review of the budget, votes on the budget for the next fiscal year. As the Council observer, I attended the three budget presentations which were very informative. These sessions are also ready to be watched online or on Wheaton's cable TV ch. 10.

This year the City Manager, Donald B. Rose, is retiring after working for the City for 45 years, over 35 yrs as City Manager. The League thanks Mr. Rose for his tremendous work on our behalf in this position.

Mr. Michael Dzugan has been hired to serve in the City Manager position. He presently is the Assistant Manager.

In my observation, I would like to thank the City Council and the City Staff for the work they have done on our behalf.

--Jan Kay