



62nd Annual Meeting - May 18, 2017

League of Women Voters of Wheaton

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROGRAM FOR THE 61ST ANNUAL MEETING.....	2
RULES FOR THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING.....	3
MINUTES OF THE 60 TH ANNUAL MEETING MAY 7, 2015	4
BUDGET FOR 2016-2017.....	7
REPORT OF THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE FOR 2016.....	9
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2016.....	10
LEADERSHIP FOR 2015 - 2016.....	10
COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2015-2016	12
PRESIDENT REPORT	1214
BOOK CLUB.....	14
WHEATON CITY COUNCIL OBSERVER REPORT.....	15
WHEATON HOUSING WORK GROUP	16
LWV COALITION FOR COLLEGE OF DUPAGE.....	17
DISCUSSION OVER DRINKS	17
EDUCATION.....	18
VOTER SERVICE REPORT	198
CONSOLIDATION	20
SOCIAL MEDIA	21

PROGRAM FOR THE 62ND ANNUAL MEETING

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHEATON
62nd ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 18, 2017

Welcome Patricia Schwarze

Call to Order of 61ST Annual Meeting Patricia Schwarze

Quorum established Patrici Schwarze

Adoption of Rules for Annual Meeting Patricia Schwarze

Minutes of 60th Annual Meeting Patricia Schwarze

Presentation and Adoption of 2016-2017 Budget Nancy Whilen

Bylaws Committee Report Patricia Schwarze

Program Planning..... Diane Niesman

Nomination and Election of Officers and Directors Roberta Jacobson

Introduction of New Board for 2016-17 Roberta Jacobson

Direction to Board.....League Members

Moving Forward.....League President

Adjournment

Dinner

Secretary for the Annual MeetingBarbara Laimins

Parliamentarian Shannon Burns

RULES FOR THE 2017 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 61TH ANNUAL MEETING MAY 19,2016

Dinner and Meeting was at Klein Creek Golf Club

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice President Liz Quigg and a Quorum was established.

A ***motion*** to adopt the Rules for the Annual Meeting was made by Barbara Laimins and seconded by Carol Elias. It passed with all ayes.

A ***motion*** to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting was made by Roberta Jacobson and seconded by Kate Forhan. Hearing no corrections or additions, the minutes were filed as presented.

The 2016-17 budget was presented by Shannon Burns, offering options with a dues increase and without a dues increase. There were no questions on expenses and it was pointed out that the budget reflects no contingency income. A ***motion*** was made by Shannon and seconded by Kate Forhan to accept the budget. It passed with all ayes.

A proposal from the Board of Directors to increase membership dues was presented by Patricia Schwarze:

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.

She then made a ***motion*** for approval and called for a vote. The motion passed with 17 yes votes, 3 no, 1 abstain.

Pat then presented the report of the Bylaws Committee. *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.

Tom Kay asked if these changes were made to bring the bylaws into line with actual practice. Pat responded that much of it was. Kate Forhan said she was supportive of such good practices. A ***motion*** made to adopt the changes passed with all ayes.

Diane Niesman reported on Program Planning:

1. She pointed out that the League survey showed that members like a balanced mix of programs on national, state and local topics.
2. Government and environment were the top issues liked by members.
3. The most popular programs were the State of the Community-style programs.
4. High interest was shown in planning a program on Legislative Updates and Gun Violence as a Public Health & Safety Issue.

Diane then presented two local positions for adoption:

Transportation:

A ***motion*** was made by Missey Wilhelm and properly seconded to amend the League's Transportation Position by adding a paragraph: "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." The motion passed with all ayes.

Parks & Recreation:

A ***motion*** made by Roberta Jacobson and properly seconded to adopt a new Parks & Recreation position. After some discussion, Roberta called the question and the motion passed with all ayes: "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.

During the discussion, Shannon Burns said the League received good press on this position and Missey Wilhelm pointed out that it can be shared and adopted by other Leagues.

Roberta Jacobson presented the report of the Nominating Committee:

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
President	Patricia Schwarze	May 2016-17
Vice President	Shannon Burns	May 2016-18
Secretary	Barbara Laimins	May 2016-17
Treasurer	Nancy Wilen	May 2016-18
Director	Liz Corry	May 2016-18
Director	Carrie Ann Fullerton	May 2016-18
Director	Paula McGowen	May 2016-18

For the Nominating Committee:

Chair	Olga Rammer	2017	
Member	Jane Hodgkinson		2017
Member	Roberta Jacobson		2017
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

After calling for nominations from the floor and hearing none, a ***motion*** was made by Jane Hodgkinson and seconded by Missey Wilhelm to elect the slate by acclamation. The slate was elected with all ayes.

The 2016-17 Board was then introduced.

Liz Quigg then presented the Marget Hamilton Award to Jan Kay for hers years of outstanding service to the League and to the community during her more than 40 years as a member.

The next agenda item was to call for Direction to the Board. None was received.

Patricia Schwarze closed with a few words about “Moving the League Forward” into a new League Year. She outlined some activities to stimulate interest in the League from both potential new members and from members who have become less active. This included an opening meeting with a professional speaker; an October salad supper; two daytime unit meetings and more community involvement.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. and was followed by dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Schwarze

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2017-2018

WHEATON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PROPOSED 2017-2018 BUDGET

	BUDGET 2016-2017	BUDGET 2017-2018	
EXPENSES			
AFFILIATIONS			
LWVI PMP	\$1845.00	\$1725.00	Single = \$30 household = \$45 Student = \$15
LWVUS PMP	\$1968.00	\$1840.00	Single = \$32 Household = \$48 Student = \$16
Greater Wheaton Chamber	\$165.00	\$165.00	
OTHER AFFILIATIONS	\$385.00	\$415.00	Upper Miss River Region Carol Stream CC Western DuPage CC Lake Michigan ILO
DELEGATES & TRAVEL			
National or State Conventions	\$1500.00	\$1500.00	
Workshops or Regional Meetings	\$100.00	\$200.00	
OPERATING COSTS			
Cost of Finance Drive	\$200.00	\$200.00	
Paypal Expense	\$30.00	\$50.00	
Insurance	\$85.00	\$85.00	
Postage	\$250.00	\$250.00	
Printing	\$25.00	\$40.00	
Website Fee	\$225.00	\$200.00	
PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES			
Annual Dinner	\$0.00	\$0.00	
General Meetings & Programs	\$300.00	\$400.00	
Member Recruitment & Retention	\$300.00	\$400.00	
Publications	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Special Events	\$250.00	\$100.00	
Voter Service	\$100.00	\$200.00	
Board Tools	\$50.00	\$50.00	
LWV President	\$50.00	\$50.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$7928.00	\$7970.00	

WHEATON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PROPOSED 2017-2018 BUDGET

	BUDGET 2016-2017	BUDGET 2017-2018		
INCOME				
LWV DUES	\$5525.00	\$4888.00	Single 39 x \$85.00	Household 12 x \$127.50
			Student 1 x \$42.50	
MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$500.00	\$500.00		
NON-MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1000.00	\$1000.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$7025.00	\$6388.00		
ASSETS INFORMATION				
7/1/2016		\$14375.54		
3/25/2017		\$13720.66		
LWVIL EDUCATION FUND		\$1116.25		
TOTAL ASSETS		\$14836.91		

REPORT OF THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE FOR 2017

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

(Strike throughs indicate deletions; additions are underlined.)

Article VII Nominations and Elections – RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD

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~~ Three 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 Nominating Committee members will meet in October to elect a Chair from among themselves.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall request suggestions from the entire membership at least ~~three~~ four months before the selection of nominees. Suggestions for nominations for Officers and Directors may be sent to the 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 non-board 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.

ARTICLE VI Financial Administration – NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD

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 changes to dues will be automatic and calculated based on a formula, whenever Per Member Payment (PMP) change. The formula will be $PMP = 15\%$ for the LKAWV Wheaton sounded up to the nearest dollar. Any proposed change in the ~~amount of dues~~ formula (%) shall be submitted in writing to the membership at least one month before the Annual Meeting. Approval of a change to the formula (%) used to calculate the dues 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.

ARTICLE III Membership – NO RECOMMENDATION

Section 1. Types of Membership. (a) Voting members shall be citizens at least ~~18~~ 16 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.

Submitted 4/1/2017

Missey Wilhelm

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2017

Thank you to all those who served on the board, and especially to those leaving the board :
 Barbara Laimins, Secretary and Chair of Voter Services committee, and Barbara Kilton,
 Director

**WE REGRET THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO FIND A PRESIDENT OR A CHAIR FOR THE
 NOMINATING COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, THREE MEMBERS HAVE AGREED TO BE ON
 THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.**

BOARD NOMINEES FOR 2017-19

PRESIDENT	NONE
VICE PRESIDENT	KATE FORHAN
SECRETARY	MARY TWOREK-TUPPER
DIRECTOR	ALLENE HARDING
DIRECTOR	DIANE KNABLE
DIRECTOR	LIZ QUIGG
DIRECTOR	MICHAEL BARBIER (FOR ONE YEAR TERM, ENDING

2018)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOMINEES FOR 2018

CHAIR	NONE
MEMBER	BARBARA KILTON
MEMBER	DIANE NIESMAN
MEMBER	BROOKE LEATON

The nominating committee recommends these actions to the board:

- Newer members should be appointed to 1 year board terms.
- Board members should take the LWV leadership training.
- The board should provide nominee suggestions to the 2018 nominating committee by November 2017.

LEADERSHIP FOR 2017-2018

POSITION	INCUMBENT	TERM	COMMENTS
President	NONE	May 2017-19	
Vice-President	Shannon Burns	May 2016-18	
Vice-president	Kate Forhan	May 2017-19	
Secretary	Mary Tworek-Tupper	May 2017-19	
Treasurer	Nancy Wilen	May 2016-18	Last term as Treasurer.
Past President	Pat Schwarze	May 2017-18	1 year ex officio
Director	Allene Harding	May 2017-19	
Director	Liz Quigg	May 2017-19	
Director	Diane Knable	May 2017-19	
Director	Carrie Fullerton	May 2016-18	
Director	Paula McGowen	May 2016-18	

Director	Michael Barbier	May 2017-18	2nd year of Liz Corry's term
Chair, Nominating Committee	NONE		Committee can divide tasks as needed.
Member, Nominating Committee	Brooke Leaton	2018	
Member, Nominating Committee	Barbara Kilton	2018	
Member, Nominating Committee	Diane Niesman	2018	

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2016-17 League year began on a high note with a set of ambitious directives and a dues increase to provide funding to pursue them. While I would like to say we accomplished everything we set out to do, in reality we did not. We did, however, make some very positive forward strides.

Based on a member survey conducted during the previous year, we set forth to ...

- be more visible.
- include all the communities we serve and hold more events in these communities.
- place more emphasis on political awareness and local issues.
- work on our “nonpartisan” image.
- build stronger relationships through socialization.

In response to a follow-up program survey conducted of our members indicated they would like networking to begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7:00. In our opening comments we include more announcements and information about what the League is doing. We aggressively encourage people to sign in and have been able to generate a list of over 40 individuals who now receive announcements of upcoming programs.

To generated general appeal and draw in nonmembers who might be interested in joining the League, we began the year in September with a special presentation featuring an Agatha Christie reenactor. We followed this in October with a salad supper held at the Warrenville Public Library and featuring a program on the Judiciary. Both of these events brought more than satisfactory attendance and interest in the League. Our January program on Sex Offenders also generated quite a bit of interest. Unfortunately we had to cancel the March program on the Gun Crisis, but may bring it back later this year. We ended the program year with a panel on water quality and a presentation conducted by our local League on lead testing in the public buildings in our five communities.

Daytime meetings were held in November and February, typically the bad weather months. November was on the Early Childhood Education mandate and was poorly attended, but we had excellent participation in February where we combined our Planning Session with Voter Registrar renewal.

In addition, two evening Discussion programs were held featuring guest speakers. This is a format that should be expanded to four or six a year.

We have nine new members this year, and two more who returned after an absence. It's nice to have fresh enthusiasm!

Along with Voter Registration events, the League conducted Mock Elections at the High Schools in October and candidates forums and meet and greets for the fall and spring elections.

To be more visible to the general public the League shared space with SCARCE at the Taste of Wheaton in June. For three weekends during the summer, we participated in Wheaton's French Market and will most likely do that again this year. We also made a small investment in three tabletop banners and give-away pens promoting the League.

The League is a member/participant in the Upper Mississippi River ILO and the Lake Michigan Region LWV. We belong to three area chambers of commerce and were a featured member

in the Wheaton Chamber e-newsletter this past fall. Several of our members participate in our League Book Club which truly promotes the art of lively conversation!

Our League was the catalyst for pulling together a coalition to observe the College of DuPage board meetings. We began printing COD observer reports in the VOTER this past September. Based on the League Education position, the League Board voted to support referendums in three local school districts appearing on the April ballot. A letter was sent to each of the superintendents and to The Daily Herald.

As a League, I believe we have done a very good job of communicating with our members, potential members, and elected officials (some of whom are our members, too). Our members can look forward to a monthly electronic calendar, program/event announcements, and a VOTER that is punctual and contains a great deal of readable material.

I would have liked to accomplish a few more goals. I would have liked to see more committee participation, or at least minimum volunteerism. We were stretched thin this past year and often "life" interfered with League work for our board members. I would also have liked to see more leaders attend LWWIL and LWWUS events, but schedules did not allow for it this year. Planning and committing early for next year could help. We talked about reinstating an Observer Corps, but did not quite get there, nor did we get more members involved in direct communications with elected officials. Engaging in some volunteer service work was also discussed, but did not happen. Finally, we need to move forward as soon as possible with a new membership brochure design and have it professionally printed.

I want to conclude by saying that I served on a board with no president in 2015-16. It was ably managed by the executive committee, but there was no one "in charge." I stepped up to take a one-year term as president so that would not happen in 2016-17. I encourage someone to step up and fill the gap this coming year. Having an able-bodied support team is invaluable, but it still comes down to one person who needs to set the agenda and be "the leader."

Patricia Schwarze

BOOK CLUB

We started the new year off by meeting in January at the home of Pat Schwarze, with Di Niesman being our moderator for “Dreamers of the Day” by Mary Doria Russell. This book chronicles a 40 year old school teacher as she takes a trip to Egypt and the Holy Land and the famous and not-so famous people she meets along the way.

In March, we met at Diane Knable’s house. Nancy Biewawski was the moderator for the book “The Girl On The Train” by Paula Hawkins. It is a psychological thriller about a woman named Rachel, who, devastated by her recent divorce turns to alcohol and tries her hand at being an amateur detective.

In May, we read “Sixth Extinction-An Unnatural History” by Elizabeth Kolbert. We met at Roberta Jacobsons home with Liz Quigg as our moderator. This book put forth facts that the earth is in the midst of a modern man-made sixth extinction. Kolbert also chronicles previous mass extinction events and compares them to the accelerated, widespread extinctions during our present time.

In July, we read “My Life on the Road” by Gloria Steinem. Our host was Pat Schwarze and Mary Tupper was our moderator. This book is about the early life of Gloria and her growth as well as the growth of the feminist movement.

In September, we read “Angle of Repose” by Wallace Stegner. Our host was Di Niesman who also was our moderator. This is the story of Lyman Ward, a divorced amputee, writing a book about his grandparents and their struggles trying to live a civilized life, while raising a family in the frontier west of the 1800’s.

And finally in November, we read “Ordinary Grace” by William Kent Krueger. Roberta Jacobson was our host and Barb Wonser was our moderator. This is a story about a thirteen year old boy, Frank Drum and his coming-of-age and the events in the town of Bremen, Minnesota in 1961.

Submitted by
Diane Knable

WHEATON CITY COUNCIL OBSERVER REPORT

It has been a very real privilege to serve as the Wheaton League's City

Council Observer. As I wear the League Observer button on my lapel

each meeting, I notice the League is given much credit in doing this work, not only by the Council and staff members but also those Community members in attendance.

City Council meetings are held each month on the first and third Monday nights while the Planning Sessions for the Council's discussion of the various issues are held on the second and fourth Monday nights in the

City Hall Chambers. There are seven votes, including the Mayoral vote

on each issue in the Council meetings while there are no votes taken in the Planning Sessions. The Council is comprised of a member from each

quadrant, N. S., E. and W. plus the two at-large members. The City

Manager, City Attorney and the City Clerk are present plus City staff, including Assist. City Manager, City Development and City Engineer as well as other Staff members as needed for a particular discussion issue of the session.

Often there are one or two local reporters taking notes but not always, accessing their information through video recordings. In addition, often the Communications Director and other such staff may be in attendance. Very often the DWA exec. dir. and Chamber of Commerce exec. dir. attend as they keep alert to the varied business issues of the City.

I would like to encourage our members to take advantage of the videos of the meetings in order to be aware of the various issues in our wonderful City. In addition, each regular session of the Council has the Public Comment time, offering anyone wishing to ask for special consideration of an issue a chance to give their ideas to the Council. One can watch the sessions on local ch. 10 as well.

As the Observer, it is my job to listen to the Council's responses to the varied issues in order to be aware of any that might be among our Local Positions in Wheaton and to take action after consulting with the LWV Board, should this be approved. We have not had such issues in the past year needing action by the League.

In my observation, I feel we are very fortunate to have the City's professional staff very prepared in all discussions. When questions arise within the Council members it is my observation that which ever staff needs to respond, the responses are well documented.

WHEATON LEAGUE HOUSING WORK GROUP

POSITION

. We support Open Housing.

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

ACTIONS

The Wheaton League's housing workgroup members did not have a member enrollment outside of the Chair this year due to some former members' schedules requiring their resigning from this Workgroup. However, the need for affordable housing and open housing in Wheaton remains a definite need. The Chair is well aware of such needs and continues to make note of special needs and opportunities arising in our Community.

A very large need in our communities is to provide assistance and opportunities for senior residents who are in great need for help with rental assistance, ownership assistance in association fees, repairs, utility assistance and housing being in locations with public transportation, resources for every day living and such provisions which make their everyday lives more workable.

The City of Wheaton does have a Housing Commission appointed by the Council whose work involves financial help through budget allocations each year. We are able to aid around 80 individuals each year.

The Workgroup would like to expand this program through other Communities' like assistance. We also are keeping ourselves aware of any other housing needs that might be met through our advocacy to the public bodies.

There are also other local affordable housing opportunities available for seniors, individuals and families in the area. These include Project Based Housing which gives HUD financial aid. There are also Section 8 Housing vouchers being used in our Communities which means the persons pay 30% of the price of their income for their housing and the Federal Gov't pays the remaining 70%. For each of these Federal programs, there is a very large waiting list which means such help is usually many years with no help. The Chair does attend the DuPage Housing Authority meetings as well as the DuPage Health and Human Services board of DuPage County in order to be able to make any public comment necessary in support of affordable housing.

The Wheaton League of Women Voters can play an important role throughout the Communities in our continued advocacy for Open Housing and Affordable Housing.

Jan Kay, Chair

LWV COALITION FOR COLLEGE OF DUPAGE

The LWV of Wheaton contacted the other six Leagues within Community College District 502: Glen Ellyn, LaGrange, Naperville, Elmhurst, Downers Grove-Woodridge-Lisle, and Roselle-Bloomingtondale to assess their interest in forming a coalition to primarily observe the monthly meetings of the COD Board of Trustees. Elmhurst, DG-W-L, and R-B joined Wheaton and sent interested members to a meeting in September 2016. At the meeting, members (13 at the time, down to 11 now) discussed how to observe the meetings, how to report the meetings, etc. We also developed a simple mission statement "***Ensure the governance of the College of DuPage is transparent and accountable.***" The members of the coalition committee pair up for observing and report writing purposes. We meet quarterly to discuss issues. Our quarterly reports are sent to the four Leagues which have joined the coalition. However, the monthly observer reports are sent to all seven Leagues in District 502. All Leagues are free to share however they feel appropriate. The Wheaton League coalition members are Di Niesman, Kate Forhan, and Paula McGowan.
Submitted by Di Niesman

DISCUSSION OVER DRINKS

Discussions over Drinks continues to be a successful event to increase awareness of the League and discuss timely events. The fall gathering at Cooper's Corner, discussed the role of Cities today and the difficulties they are facing due to the decreased State funding. Current and past officials of Carol Stream deftly explained the problems currently facing city government. The spring session hosted Dick Simpson, former Chicago Alderman and professor of political science at University of Illinois, at Prairie Path books. Mr. Simpson spoke about corruption in Illinois and the difficulty engaging citizens in the election process.

Recommendations for the Future

I would suggest that the committee for Discussion over Drinks work with the Program Committee to plan events for the next year. There would be definite benefits to the coordination of efforts and scheduling.

Submitted by Jane Hodgkinson

EDUCATION

Accomplishments

1. Research on the school districts within the Leagues catchment area:
 - Carol Stream: Districts 93 and 87
 - Warrenville (and part of Wheaton): District 20
 - West Chicago: Districts 33 and 94
 - Winfield: District 34
 - Wheaton (and areas of Carol Stream, Winfield, and West Chicago): District 200
2. Reviewing the minutes for all the Districts' School Board meetings in 2015-2016
3. Reviewing the backgrounds and credentials of Board members and Superintendents for Districts 200 and 20 (as available) as well as the demographics of each district (including West Chicago).
4. Reviewing parent and student feedback, comments, and criticisms as collected on district websites as available
5. Reviewing statewide rankings.

Findings:

- Complaints from students in particular emphasized problems of drugs and gangs, as well as ethnic tensions, and overemphasis on sports, depending on the district.
- Most of the districts' websites emphasize efforts at transparency and concerns about deferred maintenance.
- District 200 made a concerted effort to seek and provide information with open meetings, mailings and the like about their proposed referendum to seek increased funding.
- All districts have been negatively impacted by the budget stalemate at the state level. Poorer districts have suffered disproportionately and many districts throughout the state on running deficits.
- The State Department of Education has been working with a special task force to change the school funding formula (Evidence Based Funding), using research and demographics. More information can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Search-Results.aspx?k=evidence%20based%20funding>. This was a topic of discussion at the State League Issues Briefing on March 4, 2017, and looks very promising.

Recommendations for the League:

This Committee's year, beginning October 2016, got off to a slow start for a variety of reasons:

- Both the Presidential election and the COD observation project consumed a lot of the energy of both the League and the education committee chair.
- Finding League members interested in education issues (beyond COD) was difficult.

As Chair, I recommend that the COD committee be combined with the Education committee to harness the complementary nature of the agendas and energies of both. That joint committee should strategize on outreach among less active members and community members to form a larger committee. Another solution would be to create a joint committee between the Glen Ellyn
Kate Forhan

VOTER SERVICE

Candidate Forums

In the fall, the League sponsored a candidate Meet and Greet for all candidates on the November Ballot in conjunction with Wheaton North High School. Students and community were able to meet one on one with County and State Candidates.

This spring, LWV of Wheaton co-sponsored with the Western Chambers of Commerce candidate forums in West Chicago, Winfield and Wheaton for township, city council and school board candidates. The committee also sponsored City Council, Township and School Board Forums in Wheaton. A meet and greet opportunity for all Carol Stream Candidates was also held. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this happen

National Day of Registration and Mock Elections

The League participated in the National Day of Registration by coordinating the voter registration of approximately 100 new voters at high schools within the Leagues service area. The League also coordinated a mock election that for all service area high schools. Over 2,500 votes were cast by students who experience voting with equipment provided by the DuPage County Election Commission. 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.

Community

Voter Registration takes place once a month at the Wheaton Library. Volunteers also registered voters at the Wheaton French Market in the fall.

Registration training was held at the Program Planning Meeting to increase the number of available registrars.

Recommendations for the Future

It is suggested that the League investigate holding workshops on How to Run for Office. Perhaps, a workshops on the subject will encourage interested citizens to run for local and state offices and end an increasing trend of uncontested elections.

--Barbara Laimins, Voter Service

--Allene Harding, Voter Registration

CONSOLIDATION

At the 2015 LWVIL Convention, members adopted a position to address the rising concern of redundant governmental entities. Illinois has the most layers of government than any other state. There has been significant activity on the state and local level to address this issue, however most changes must first occur in state law. The LWVIL position addresses the factors and process of consolidation or elimination of a governmental entity, thereby allowing advocacy and education in this area. Because this is a complex and highly politicized issue area, the Issues Committee approved the formation of an ad hoc committee made up of members from throughout the state. A call for participation was issued by the E-News and Leaders Update and two meetings of the group have been held.

The mission of this committee is to provide local support for the transparent and informed decision making behind consolidation of governmental entities and services, both to reduce the number of taxing bodies in our state and maintain needed government services. The League of Women Voters of Illinois, county and local Leagues are uniquely capable of facilitating these changes due to high level of credibility, community involvement and well balanced information. The committee made up of leaders will support local efforts in the following ways:

1. Survey local leagues about past and present actions taken locally to consolidate governmental entities and services to be completed by March, 2017;
2. Creating a clearinghouse of information garnered from the survey, the state report and Transform Illinois reports;
3. Provide a template and support for local League forums to educate stakeholders about legislative or administrative processes and potential outcomes from these actions;
4. Review and in some cases, take a position on proposed legislation, utilizing the LWVIL position, which focuses upon process and outcomes. Have specialists join the LWVIL Issues Committee to regularly report on legislative activity and outcomes.
5. Create written and digital educational materials for legislators, public servants, Leagues and governmental services.
6. Compile, maintain and disseminate a list of highly qualified speakers, with expertise in specific areas of government services and processes, to attend public forums, be part of a youtube series and write blogs.
7. Dedicate a specific area on the LWVIL website, and potentially a dedicated FB page, to this topic for statewide and national use.
8. Train and involve our Local members about this issue and assist them in recruiting stakeholders to study local government consolidation, leading to more visibility for the League and expand membership The committee will provide a workshop at the 2017 LWVIL Convention and regionally thereafter.

LWVIL partnered with the statewide organization, Transform Illinois, attending its regular meetings for the last six months and signing on as an organization to one advisory letter to the leaders in Springfield in support of legislation as part of the Senate budget proposal to allow counties to consolidate within their own governmental organizations. Next steps in 2017 include compiling and sharing the results of the survey, establishing a section of the LWVIL web page for a clearinghouse of information and presenting a

workshop at the 2017 LWVIL Convention providing a League toolbox for addressing this issues locally involving stakeholders and increasing League visibility and reach. Please advise LWVIL Issues Committee if local activities on this issue are taking place.

Submitted by Hillary Denk and Paula McGowen

SOCIAL MEDIA

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. LWV Easyweb also provides web authoring tools that are reasonably easy to use. Any members interested in adding content to our website should contact Liz Quigg.

Facebook provides a way to inform our members. Missey Wilhelm, Barb Laimins and other members have made very good use of Facebook to inform our membership. We now have 116 members in our public group and also have a Facebook organization page. Consider joining our Facebook group if you use Facebook and adding posts that members might find interesting (e.g., an upcoming meeting on a subject that might interest members). We cleared up an issue with Facebook users friending "Wheaton LWV" and then posting on the Facebook timeline of "Wheaton LWV". That meant any friend could post content that we might not approve of, especially during the past election. Now "Wheaton LWV" has only a few friends.

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

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

We use MailChimp for communicating about upcoming events and publishing the Voter. Mary Tupper and Pat Schwarze have been the main authors.

Submitted by Liz Quigg