

58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

May 16, 2013



League of Women Voters  
Of Wheaton

PROGRAM

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHEATON**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING**

**MAY 16, 2013**

Welcome..... Missey Wilhelm

Call to Order of 58th Annual Meeting ..... Liz Quigg

Quorum established

Adoption of Rules for Annual Meeting ..... Liz Quigg

Minutes of 57th Annual Meeting ..... Di Niesman

Presentation and adoption of Budget ..... Nancy Wilen

By-laws Committee Report..... Martha Barmantje

Consideration and adoption of Local Program ..... Di Niesman

Nomination and Election of Officers and Directors ..... Don Westlake

Introduction of new Board ..... Jane Hodgkinson

Direction to Board ..... League Members

Adjournment

  

Secretary for the Annual Meeting ..... Di Niesman

Parliamentarian ..... Allene Harding

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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PROGRAM ..... 1

TABLE OF CONTENTS ..... 2

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 – 2013 ..... 3

COMMITTEES AND OBSERVER CORPS ..... 3

PROPOSED RULES FOR ANNUAL MEETING ..... 4

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING ..... 6

WHEATON LWV PROPOSED BUDGET 2013-2014 ..... 7

REPORT OF THE BY-LAWS COMMITTEE ..... 10

LOCAL PROGRAM 2013-2014 ..... 12

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ..... 14

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE’S ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013 ..... 16

*2012-13 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT* ..... 16

*FINANCE DRIVE REPORT FOR 2012-2013* ..... 17

*VOTER SERVICE - CANDIDATE FORUMS 2012-2013* ..... 18

*VOTER SERVICE – REGISTRATION 2012-2013* ..... 19

*ACTION ITEMS FOR 2012-2013* ..... 19

*SPECIAL PROJECTS 2012-2013* ..... 19

*PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING FOR 2013* ..... 19

*WEBMASTER* ..... 20

*REPORT OF ACTION COMMITTEES* ..... 20

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 – 2013

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**OFFICERS**

Missey Wilhelm	Vice President	Voter Services-Candidate Forums
Liz Quigg	Vice President	Webmaster
Olga Rammer	Treasurer	
Di Niesman	Secretary	Programs

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Allene Harding	Voter Registration
Denise Niesman	VOTER, Action
Jane Hodgkinson	Membership
Nancy Wilen	Finance Drive
Maria Owens (resigned)	Programs
Roberta Jacobson	

COMMITTEES AND OBSERVER CORPS

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Listed below are local action and study committees, the chair people and members. Also included is the observer corps for public meetings. **Note: All committees, active and inactive, welcome interested members to join them.**

<b>Observer Corps</b>	City Council – Jan Kay Park District – Jane Hodgkinson DuPage County Forest Preserve-Shannon Burns Board of Education-none	<b>Programs</b>	<b>Di Niesman, Chair</b> Beth O’Malley Maria Owens
<b>Environment and Healthcare (INACTIVE)</b>	<b>Diane Niesman, Chair</b> <b>Environment &amp; Healthcare</b> Jane Taylor Betty Bradshaw Allene Harding Pat Duhey Jane Hodgkinson Shannon Burns	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Chair, none</b> Olga Rammer, Treasurer Nancy Wilen, Roberta Jacobson

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Jan Kay, Chair</b> Barb Deli , Susannah Levine Kathy Kregor	<b>Viable Downtown Businesses</b>	<b>Chair, none</b> Mary Wachter, Barb Deli Jan Kay, Jane Hodgkinson
<b>Finance Drive</b>	<b>Nancy Wilen, Chair</b> Olga Rammer, Treasurer	<b>Voter Service</b>	<b>Voter Registration – Allene Harding, Chair</b> Registrars <b>Candidate Forums – Missey Wilhelm, Chair</b> Jane Hodgkinson
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Jane Hodgkinson, Chair</b> Denise Niesman and Roberta Jacobson, Data Barb Pape, Allene Harding, Jan Kay Olga Rammer, Treasurer	<b>Technology (INACTIVE)</b>	<b>Chair, none</b> Missey Wilhelm Liz Quigg Beryl Jacobson
<b>Nominating</b>	<b>Don Westlake, Chair</b> Ellen Noth                      Carol Honeywell Di Niesman                      Roberta Jacobson	<b>Publications (INACTIVE)</b>	<b>Chair, none</b>

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**PROPOSED RULES FOR ANNUAL MEETING**

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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.

<b>Voting</b>	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.
<b>Admission</b>	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.
<b>Debate</b>	Debate from the floor shall be limited to three minutes. No one shall speak more than once to 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.
<b>Recommended Program</b>	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.
<b>Consideration of Non-Recommended Program</b>	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 for five minutes in explanation of the reason for asking consideration. Only questions for clarification may be asked. Then the vote

	<p>to consider is taken, a majority is required to pass.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Discussion</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Adoption of Items</b>	<p>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.</p>

\*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 FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

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May 17, 2012

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 P.M. by Vice-President Denise Niesman.
2. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the rules of the annual meeting. The motion carried.
3. A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the minutes from the 56th Annual Meeting and approve the minutes. The motion carried.
4. Roberta Jacobson presented the 2012-2013 Proposed Budget and reviewed various changes that were made in expenditures and revenues. The new budget reflects an increase in membership outreach expenditures and a decrease in budgeted amount for convention expenses, because 2013 is a state convention. A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget. The motion carried.
5. Liz Quigg presented a change in Guidelines for eligibility to Board of Directors. In order to agree more closely with LWVUS Guidelines, members elected to **nonpartisan** offices would be able to serve on the Board of Directors. After some discussion, the phrase "with approval from the Board" was deleted from the new Guideline. A motion was made and seconded to accept the guideline. The motion carried.
6. Martha Barmantje presented the by-laws committee's recommendation to revise the number of members on the board of directors from 8 to 6, electing 3 in even years and 3 in odd years. A motion was made and seconded to accept the change. The motion carried.
7. Beth O'Malley reported that no changes had been made to our Local Program, and the Local Program was adopted.
8. Beth O'Malley presented the following candidates for two-year terms on the Board of Directors. The motion was made and seconded to accept the nominees. The motion passed.

For President        *No candidate*  
For Vice-President   *Missey Wilhelm*  
For Treasurer        *Olga Rammer*

The following Director positions are for two-year terms:

*Denise Niesman*  
*Nancy Wilen*  
*Maria Owens*

The following are nominees for the 2013 Nominating Committee:

*Helen Westlake, Chair*  
*Ellen Noth*  
*Carol Honeywell*

9. Denise Niesman recognized the members of the current Board and thanked them for their service.
10. Denise asked those in attendance to provide direction for the 2012-13 Board.
11. The Annual Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by: Di Niesman, Secretary

WHEATON LWV PROPOSED BUDGET 2013-2014

EXPENSES	2012-13 Budget	2013-14 Budget	Comments
<b>Affiliations</b>			
Wheaton Chamber	\$125.00	\$150.00	Actual
LWVIL per Member Payment	\$1,904.00	\$1,755.00	Fewer Members
LWVUS per Member Payment	\$2,101.00	\$1,937.00	Fewer Members
Lake Michigan LWV	\$25.00	\$25.00	Actual
<b>Delegates and Travel</b>			
National or State Conventions	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00	LWVUS Convention
Workshops or Regional meetings	\$200.00	\$200.00	
<b>General Administration</b>			
Board Tools	\$100.00	\$100.00	
LWV President	\$100.00	\$100.00	
<b>Operating Costs</b>			
Bank Charge & office expense	\$150.00	\$150.00	
Cost of Finance Drive	\$160.00	\$250.00	Actual \$260.00
Paypal	\$0.00	\$50.00	Paid 2013
Insurance	\$85.00	\$85.00	Actual
Postage Expense	\$110.00	\$200.00	Actual \$141.00
Printing Expense	\$323.00	\$350.00	Actual \$317.00
Website Fee	\$200.00	\$200.00	Actual
<b>Programs and Activities</b>			
Action	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Annual Dinner Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	



Event Rental	\$0.00	\$450.00	Theater rental
General Meetings & Programs	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Member recruitment & retention	\$650.00	\$500.00	Actual \$444.00
Publications	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Special Events	\$100.00	\$100.00	
Study/Concurrence	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Voter Service	\$100.00	\$100.00	

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$7,633.00	\$8,402.00	
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<b>INCOME</b>			
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Contingency Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Fund Raisers	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	
LWV Dues	\$4,583.00	\$4,225.00	
Member Contributions	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Non-Member Contributions	\$2,550.00	\$2,750.00	
September Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	

<b>Total Income</b>	\$7,633.00	\$7,475.00	
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<b>ASSETS</b>			
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LWVIL Education Fund	\$468.91	\$468.91	
Certificate of Deposit	\$7,112.37	\$7,123.08	
Checking	\$6,245.73	\$7,813.42	As of 3/28/2013
Savings	\$13.00	\$0.00	

<b>Total Assets</b>	\$13,840.01	\$15,405.41	
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Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	
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Equity	\$13,840.01	\$15,405.41	
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<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	\$13,840.01	\$15,405.41	
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<b>PMP based on Membership report on 1/2013</b>	<b># of Members</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>
Local individual L1	44	PMP for LWVIL 27/\$40.50; for LWVUS 29.80/\$44.70
1st Household L2 R2	14	Total PMP \$56.80/\$85.20 per household of 2 people
2nd Household L3 R3	14	Wheaton LWV dues \$65.00 for one: \$97.50 per household
National N1 N2 N3 N4	0	<b>Wheaton LWV nets \$8.20 of individual dues</b>
Honorary L4 R4	1	Members = 73 as of Jan 2013
Student	0	44@\$65.00 = 2860.00; 14@97.50 = \$1365.00 (1Honorary)
<b>Total Members 2013</b>	73	Total 2014 dues are \$4225.00 based on 73 members

**2013-14 Budget Committee:** Nancy Wilen, Olga Rammer, Roberta Jacobson

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REPORT OF THE BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

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*This revision is recommended by the board to reinstate Section 1 (previously deleted in error), to separate dues from the various finance drives, and to clarify when dues must be paid in order to remain a member in good standing.*

**Current:**

ARTICLE VI

Financial Administration

Section 2. Dues. Dues shall be payable upon initial joining of the League and thereafter annually on the first of September. Members who join after January 31st will pay one-half the annual dues for that year. Any member who fails to pay the dues within two months after they become payable 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.

**Proposed:**

ARTICLE VI

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 payable upon initial joining of the League and thereafter annually on the first of July, ~~whichever date follows the month in which the member initially joined.~~ 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.

Members who join after January 31st will pay one-half the annual dues for that year.

*This revision is recommended by the board to remove references to the League of Women Voters of DuPage County. This organization no longer exists.*

**Current:**

ARTICLE X

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. County Convention. The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of the delegates must be sent to the County 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 DuPage County.

Section 4. 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.

Section 5. County Council. The President or his or her proxy shall be the delegate to the County Council under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of DuPage County.

**Proposed:**

ARTICLE X

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. County Convention. The Board of Directors at a meeting before the date on which the names of the delegates must be sent to the County 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 DuPage County.~~

**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.

~~Section 5. County Council. The President or his or her proxy shall be the delegate to the County Council under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of DuPage County.~~

Respectfully submitted by the By-laws Committee

Martha Barmantje

Denise Niesman

Ellen Noth

## **Local Government**

### Local Government Bodies:

Support of 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 State Statute 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:

Support Home Rule for the City of Wheaton and DuPage County.

### Zoning and Annexation:

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

### Cable TV:

The League of Women Voters of Wheaton supports:

- The City of Wheaton maintaining its public educational and governmental channels as part of the Cable TV franchise agreement.
- Broad-based citizen participation in the Community Media Commission.
- Participation in Cable TV by public institutions serving Wheaton.
- Provisions for non-commercial cable TV programming produced by public institutions.
- The continuation of public access television programming produced and/or sponsored by individuals.
- All of the positions above even as communication technology evolve.

## **Social Policies**

### Housing:

- Support of Open Housing Ordinance for Wheaton.
- Support of additional housing units and housing assistance for low and moderate income families, senior citizens, and the disabled.

### Recreation:

#### Park District Programs and Facilities:

- The League of Women Voters believes the current programs are meeting most of the needs of the community. However, improved programming for junior high age and teenage young people should receive the District's attention.
- The League of Women Voters believes the Park District Board has the responsibility to provide what the community wants; however, the resources must be managed responsibly. The League has some concerns about the appropriateness of subsidizing out-of-community participants in senior citizen activities.
- The League of Women Voters believes criteria should be developed by the Park Board to meet the on-going needs of citizens who cannot otherwise participate in the programs. We support increasing the awareness of scholarship programs through community resources who can make referrals as well as through the media.
- The League of Women Voters supports the use of a Master Plan to bring cohesiveness to the work of the Park District. We support continued input by the public into the planning. We support an annual review of the Master Plan by the Board of the Park District.

### Transportation:

The League supports and encourages bicycling for transportation and recreation wherever and whenever possible. Whenever city streets are upgraded, Wheaton 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.

#### Health Care:

Support for improved access to health care in our community and for improved coordination of preventive health service.

#### Education:

The League of Women Voters of Wheaton reaffirms its support of quality education in Wheaton-Warrenville District 200. 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.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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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:

**Officers**

Missey Wilhelm (2015)	President
Liz Quigg (2015)	Vice President
Di Niesman (2014)*	Vice President
Roberta Jacobson (2015)	Secretary

**The following Director positions are for two years:**

Allene Harding  
Barbara Laimins  
Rosalinda Delgado  
Barbara Kilton

**The following are nominees for the 2014 Nominating Committee:**

Donald Westlake, Chair  
Lori Miller  
Frank Goetz

Respectfully Submitted,

2013 Nominating Committee

Donald Westlake, Chair

Carol Honeywell

Ellen Noth

Roberta Jacobson

Di Niesman

\* Completing Missey's term

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013 – 2014

with year term ends

**OFFICERS**

President	Missey Wilhelm (2015)
Vice President	Liz Quigg (2015)
Vice President	Di Niesman* (2014)
Secretary	Roberta Jacobson (2015)
Treasurer	Olga Rammer (2014)

\*completing Missey's term

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Nancy Wilen (2014)	Allene Harding (2015)
Barbara Kilton (2015)	Barbara Laimins (2015)
Denise Niesman (2014)	Rosalinda Delgado (2015)



Our second year of governance by committee went smoothly with Missey and Liz sharing VP duties and Olga and Di continuing their roles as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

It was a very busy year with unit meetings, fall and spring candidate forums, and a state pension study to fit into the calendar among the annual Holiday Brunch and Program Planning meetings. And, before we got to anything official, we kicked off our year with a wonderful "Wine and Cheese" event in the Wilhelm backyard. The intent of the gathering was to introduce our League to potential new members and, as you will read in Jane Hodgkinson's Membership report, we were successful.

In September, Missey joined representatives from ACLU to present an interesting, timely and well-attended discussion on Voter Suppression. October's unit meeting was also packed, because it was about the hot topic "Pension Reform" and featured the Director of the Teachers Retirement System, an expert from the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, and State Representative Darlene Senger (R-Naperville) who was working on pension reform in Springfield. In November, we had soup, sandwiches and our 'pension reform' consensus meeting at Gary Memorial Methodist Church. Once again, Phil and Mary Suess hosted our Holiday Brunch in December. January 2013 was the popular "State of the Community" meeting with the Mayor of Wheaton, District 200 School Board President Rosemary Swanson and John Kelly from the Wheaton Park District. The annual Program Planning Pot Luck at the church was in February. We had a well advertised and attended unit meeting about the social safety net in DuPage County in March. Our final unit meeting, planned for April, about "Flooding and Power," was timed a little too well...it had to be canceled due to severe flooding.

Tonight's Annual Dinner Meeting closes out 2012-2013, but Missey Wilhelm and Nancy Wilen will be representing Wheaton League in Bloomington at the LWVIL Convention. The new Officers and Board of Directors will meet with the outgoing Board members in June for our peaceful transition of power, and we'll start planning for the 2013-2014 League year. It is our hope that next year brings both more members and more member involvement in League activities.

Missey Wilhelm, Liz Quigg, Olga Rammer and Di Niesman

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#### 2012-13 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

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**NEW MEMBERS-** One of the committee's prime responsibilities was to attract and retain new members during 2012-13. The League's membership, once very strong, was declining. This is a national trend for many organizations but the Wheaton League took a proactive stance this year and will continue that practice next year. During 2012-13, ten (10) new members joined the league. They are:

Helene Cella

Jan Cella

Daniel Crane (husband of Susan Lubonovich)

Rosalinda (Rosie) Delgado

Phyllis Eisenberg

Joann Franzen

Barbara Kilton

Barbara Laimins

Nancy Lanning

William Tupper (husband of Mary Tworek-Tupper)

On behalf of the League, we want to welcome all our new members again.

**WINE AND CHEESE PARTY-** In 2012-13, we also held the first league Wine and Cheese Party at the Wilhelm's on Saturday Sept 8, 2012. We had RSVP's for 36 with about 30 people attending. Feedback was that it was an enjoyable social for existing members, a good way to welcome potential new members, and should be continued in the future. The cost for the event was a little over \$10.00 per attendee, which covered the cost for wine, cheese, sandwiches, fruit, crackers, fruit, etc. Our gratitude to all who helped with the event and to the Wilhelms for hosting.

**INTERN-** 2012 brought us an intern who was taking a class at COD. Her instructor offered extra credit to any student who performed 20 hours of volunteer service. Hannah Dickson helped with the mailings for the candidate night forum in October, the soup/salad dinner, design and mailing of program postcards. Thank you Hannah and good luck at COD.

**POSTCARD PROGRAM MAILERS-** We also reinstated the mailing of the program postcards (fall and winter meeting locations and programs) to all members. This gave all members an additional reminder of when meetings were taking place. We will continue this practice in 2013-14.

**DUES STATEMENTS-** I want to thank Denise Niesman for issuing the membership renewals when I "refused " doing them because I was setting up the wine and cheese party, mailing the fall program mailers, and the October Candidate forum.

**TASTE OF WHEATON BOOTH-** The league also sponsored a booth on Saturday at the Taste of Wheaton to promote the league and our work. Our thanks to all that assisted with the booth.

**HELEN WESTLAKE REMEMBERED-** Our membership suffered a terrible shock this year when we learned, just after the wine and cheese party, that our dear Helen had died. Helen and her husband Don exemplified the goals of the league. They were lifelong learners who continued to believe that an educated electorate is essential to our way of life. The Westlake's were always front row at our candidate forums, timing the candidates and keeping all to the same standards of time. Helen never shied away from a challenge and was a champion for many causes. Don, we share your loss with you. You are both models to the rest of us.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND HELPERS-** Thanks to Jan Kay, Barb Pape, Denise Niesman, Diane Niesman, Allene Harding, Liz Quigg, Roberta Jacobson.

Submitted by Jane Hodgkinson

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#### FINANCE DRIVE REPORT FOR 2012-2013

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164 letters were sent to potential supporters.

The Advisory Committee consisted of:

Christopher Barton, Community Bank

Steven R. Johnson, Lawyer

Dick O'Gorman, Ivy's Restaurant Owner

Edward J. Walsh, Lawyer

We received contributions from 30 Supporters which is consistent with the last 2 years.

The cost of postage and printing was \$260.00.

The amount of money raised was \$2275.00.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilen, Finance Drive Chairman

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#### VOTER SERVICE - CANDIDATE FORUMS 2012-2013

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LWV Wheaton co-sponsored or participated in 4 candidate forums prior to the April 9, 2013, general election. In Wheaton the forum covered candidates for Wheaton City Council, CUSD 200 School Board and Wheaton Park District.

We continued our partnership with Steve Johnson, President, Kerry O'Brien, Executive Director and the staff of the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce whose effort continues to make the Wheaton Candidate Forums a success. The feedback from candidates and the audience is strong and including encouragement to continue to offer this event for voters and candidate alike. Two other key partners are Randy King and the staff from WebRocket Video for the live stream for the event and Gary White who films for *CWC10*, City of Wheaton Channel 10.

The League partnered with Dolly Pointer and the Winfield Junior Woman's Club for a candidate forum in Winfield, which, while offering some challenges, went well and we look forward to working with them again.

The League is always happy to work with the Social Studies Department of West Chicago Community High School. Lisa Willuweit, the teachers and the students there are enthusiastic partners and make our job so easy!

Chris Oakley from the Village of Carol Stream asked if the League could help coordinate a forum there with the help of various volunteers, we were able to do just that. We are especially grateful to Fire Chief, Rick Kolomay, for allowing us to use the Fire House as the location for the event. Using a different format, candidates for each race were given time to introduce themselves, but no moderated questions were offered, in favor of allowing voters to engage the candidates directly in an open house format. It really worked out pretty well.

Of course, members of the League participate by planning and organizing, confirming the candidates for covered races, moderating, timing, sorting questions, greeting candidates, setting up and taking down at each event. Many of the volunteers worked at more than one event. A huge THANK YOU goes to Roberta and Beryl Jacobson, Diane and Denise Niesman, Don Westlake, Nancy Wilen, Nancy Lanning, Shannon Burns, Rosalinda DelGado, & Tom Wilhelm. We couldn't do this without the moderators, Maria Owens, Robin LaBedz, Lori Miller, and Roberta Jacobson.

In 2012, the League co-sponsored 3 forums (January, March and October) with the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce and the LWV of Glen Ellyn for races including candidates for County Board of Supervisors, Forest Preserve Commissioner, Il State Senator, Il State Representative, and 6<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Representative.

#### 2012 Mock Election

The League is a strong proponent of getting young adults out to vote and, by participating in the mock elections; students receive hands-on experience in the voting process. Through a grant from the DuPage Elections Commission, the Leagues of Women Voters in DuPage County (Downers Grove/Lisle/Woodridge, Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, Naperville and Wheaton) sponsored Mock Elections in 18 high schools in DuPage County the first week of October, 2012.

The LWV of Wheaton is delighted to report that Wheaton North, Wheaton/Warrenville South, Community High School of West Chicago and Glenbard North in Carol Stream participated. League volunteers included, Jane Hodgkinson, Shannon Burns, Allene Harding, Liz Corry, Helene and Jan Cella, Denise Niesman, Diane Niesman, & Nancy Wilen.

Missey Wilhelm, Voter Service Chairman, May 2013

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### VOTER SERVICE – REGISTRATION 2012-2013

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Registering voters continues to be a way to keep the League before the public. This year we held events at church picnics, retirement communities, as well as high schools. We continue to offer registration once a month at the Wheaton Public Library. As always, we could use more volunteer registrars.

Allene Harding, Voter Registration Chair

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### ACTION ITEMS FOR 2012-2013

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We depended on TFA (Time For Action) alerts via email from LWVIL and LWVUS for all communications with our elected officials. We had no advocacy efforts this year based on our Local Programs.

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### SPECIAL PROJECTS 2012-2013

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In November, we held our Pension Reform Study Consensus meeting at Gary Methodist Church, with soup and sandwiches to help us think.

We held our December Holiday Brunch at the home of Phil and Mary Sues for the fourth year in a row. They provided the ham and hospitality, and Board members provided all the side dishes. This event is pure socializing...no business...a wonderful way to begin the festive season and end the calendar year.

The business part of our year began on February 21st at the Program Planning meeting that was, once again, held at the Gary Methodist Church. We had 17 members bring hot dishes, salads and desserts to the potluck dinner, so we were able to mingle business with pleasure.

The fiscal year ending celebration and meeting will be held at the Carol Stream Holiday Inn and Banquet Halls on May 16, 2013. The social part of the evening will begin at 6:30 PM with a buffet dinner beginning at 7:30 PM. Wine will be available, by the glass, inside the meeting room. Sandwiched in between cocktails and dinner, Mr. Joseph Tebrugge, Stormwater Engineer for City of Wheaton, will give us the “flooding” presentation planned for April 18<sup>th</sup>, and canceled due to severe flooding. The business meeting will begin at 8:30 PM. Jane Hodgkinson did the heavy lifting in planning this event and deserves a special thank you.

Many thanks to all Board members for their help whenever we held a special event.

Di Niesman

Special Projects Chair

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### PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING FOR 2013

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We had delicious food and delightful conversation at the Program Planning meeting on 2/21/13. Seventeen members attended the event.

#### LWVIL PROGRAM PLANNING

For LWV IL, we decided to support the concurrence requested by the Great Lakes LWV. We also checked off “retain” for all the state positions, except Fiscal Policy. We checked off “working on” and formed a small committee (Beth O’Malley, Lori Miller and Di Niesman) to look over the other state Leagues’ positions in hopes that we could present another state’s fiscal policy for concurrence at the state convention. While we liked several Leagues’ “expenditure”

positions, we did not want to substitute their "revenue" policies for the one LWVIL already has, so we abandoned the idea. If an amendment to the IL Constitution to change to a graduated rate income tax is successful in November 2014, Wheaton League may take up the cause to study LWVIL's Fiscal Policy once again at the 2015 state Convention.

#### LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

All current positions were retained. However, there was much discussion regarding reviewing, revising and updating our Local Program. We feel it is too Wheaton-centric, considering our League represents towns, villages and cities surrounding Wheaton which do not have their own Leagues. Also, our position on Cable Television may no longer be necessary, as it was written when there was only one carrier, and now we have several. It is our hope that by the time we hold our Program Planning meeting in 2014, a study task force has been convened, and we can reach consensus on changes to our local programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Niesman, Program Chair

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#### WEBMASTER

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We continue to use our website created and updated with LWV Easyweb. ([wheatonlwvil.org](http://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 made very good use of Facebook to inform our membership. We now have forty-five members and most posts get about twenty readers. Facebook provides a way to let our members know when there are changes like the recent cancellation of our program on flooding when Wheaton had six inches of rain. Of course, we also use email to contact members.

Our Facebook group is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wheatonlwvil/>

Liz Quigg

Wheaton LWV Webmaster

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#### REPORT OF ACTION COMMITTEES

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##### ENVIRONMENT / HEALTH CARE

Our committee held no meetings this year and remains inactive.

Next year, we hope to do a program about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. March 23, 2014 will mark the 4th anniversary of its passage and all parts of the act will have been phased in by then. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Obamacare, including the individual mandate, was constitutional. There are many local resources that could do a presentation on this important new law and answer many members' questions.

Diane Niesman

Chair of Health/Environment Committee

#### WHEATON LEAGUE HOUSING WORKGROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2013

While this year has been an unusual year in the legislative realm for our League's Housing position, there has been some movement that affects what happens here in Wheaton due to State legislation and budget initiatives.

As part of DuPage Housing Action Coalition from the founding several years ago, we have joined with other affordable housing agencies and advocates to advocate for SB 1602, the purpose being one of the many issues related to foreclosures.

This legislation did not pass and was declared dead but advanced into a Shell Bill with Sen. Jackie Collins. It would protect tenants of foreclosed properties in their ability to stay in their rental units for a minimum of 90 days before eviction and would ensure they are not pressured into leaving their homes early based on unfair or misleading representations.

Secondly, we also advocated to maintain emergency and transitional housing program funding at \$9.1 million from the General Revenue Fund.

In addition we advocated for an increased funding for the Homeless Prevention Program from \$4 million to \$5.5 million. This funding helps prevent a family in temporary financial crisis by providing emergency rent, utility or mortgage assistance. It is a very important program for our families and individuals.

Thirdly, in order to maintain not only these programs, but many others which serve our communities, we have, as part of the LWVIL, advocated on behalf of a graduated income tax to replace the flat tax we have in Illinois, one of the few States having such. This issue will continue to be on our advocacy agenda throughout the year ahead in order to have the amendment to the Constitution on the 2014 ballot.

Jan Kay

Kathy Kregor

Barb Deli

#### VIABLE DOWNTOWN WHEATON

Wheaton League Viable Downtown Business Workgroup Annual Report 2013

In support of the Wheaton League of Women Voters position to maintain a viable central business district and for any possible expansion of the City's tax base, the Viable Downtown Business Workgroup has followed the City's Strategic Planning Process from the beginning. It is yet in progress so we will continue to follow along as the City Council works alongside the planning workgroup.

In addition to the elected Council, staff including the City Manager, Assistant City Manager and Planning and Economic Development Director are the key positions in the Strategic Planning work.

In February of 2012 the City Council interviewed three consulting firms who responded to the City's Request for Proposal as consultants to perform a Downtown Strategic Plan and Streetscape. Teska Assoc., Design Workshop and Houseal Lavigne were the three chosen to present an overview of their proposals. They each answered many questions by the Council and following this session, the Council's Feb. Planning Session was the time for the Council to discuss and select the firm to work with Wheaton.

Design Workshop which specializes in landscape architecture, urban design and strategic services was selected.

The tasks of the Planning Co. include: + inventory and analysis of existing conditions, + initial visioning session and creation of plan alternative, + creation of preferred plans for downtown Wheaton, + completing vision plan, strategic plan and streetscape plans.

Throughout the entire process, there have been public meetings held which have given the public chances to examine the ideas for streetscape, business opportunities and general ideas through the private voting mechanisms. The various ideas have included defining the boundaries and gateways and how to connect the different parts of the City in a more whole manner. The presentations have included outlining of previous planning efforts, existing land use, existing zoning, existing streetscape amenities and other ideas as well.

Ideas have included such as “festival streets” with options on various streets in the downtown; year round farmers’ market, various ideas for signage into the downtown areas, the use of the Prairie Path as it might be incorporated into the plan, upgrading the streetscape including lighting, adding street trees and furniture style. Included also are exploring improvements to parking, opportunities for outdoor dining, pedestrian and bicycle use and “green practices”. A look into additional office, retail and residential land uses which would be consistent with the scale of the present downtown to take place between the Metra tracks towards Roosevelt Road. In all there is a priority for provision of achievement of the best returns on investment and the overall vision for the downtown.

The Vision Statement is as follows: “Elevate the position of Downtown Wheaton as a destination district in the western portion of the Chicago region by pursuing a number of civic improvements and regulatory changes designed to increase the capture rate of retail, office, and residential land uses in the Downtown.”

The Workgroup encourages League members to search the City’s website to read the minutes of the meetings as well as seeing the comments of the Strategic Planning group and seeing the examples of many varied options for Wheaton.

As the work proceeds we will be able to watch the Planning and Council regular meetings online.

Jan Kay

Mary Wachter

Barb Deli

Jane Hodgkinson