

57th Annual Meeting
May 17, 2012



League of Women Voters
of Wheaton

PROGRAM

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHEATON FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING MAY 17, 2012

DINNER

WELCOMEDI NIESMAN

CALL TO ORDER OF 57TH ANNUAL MEETING.....DENISE NIESMAN

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

ADOPTION OF RULES FOR ANNUAL MEETINGDENISE NIESMAN

MINUTES OF 56TH ANNUAL MEETING LIZ QUIGG

PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF BUDGETROBERTA JACOBSON

PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF GUIDELINES.....LIZ QUIGG

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT MARTHA BARMANTJE

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF LOCAL PROGRAM..... BETH O'MALLEY

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS BETH O'MALLEY

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD..... DENISE NIESMAN

DIRECTION TO BOARD..... LEAGUE MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

SECRETARY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETINGDI NIESMAN

PARLIAMENTARIAN..... ALLENE HARDING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROGRAM	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011 – 2012.....	3
COMMITTEES AND OBSERVER CORPS	3
PROPOSED RULES FOR ANNUAL MEETING.....	4
BY- LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT	11
LOCAL PROGRAM 2012-2013	12
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE	14
NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 – 2013	15
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE’S ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012	16
MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2011-2012.....	16
FINANCE DRIVE 2011-12.....	17
VOTER SERVICE - CANDIDATE FORUMS 2011-2012	17
VOTER SERVICE - REGISTRATION	18
ACTION ITEMS FOR 2011-2012	18
SPECIAL PROJECTS 2011-12	18
PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING FOR 2011.....	18
<i>LWVUS Program Planning</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Local Planning.....</i>	<i>19</i>
PUBLICATIONS.....	19
WEBMASTER.....	20
REPORT OF ACTION COMMITTEES	20
<i>ENVIRONMENT / HEALTH CARE</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>HOUSING GROUP.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>VIABLE DOWNTOWN WHEATON.....</i>	<i>21</i>
LEAGUE OF VOTERS	22

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011 – 2012

OFFICERS

Denise Niesman	Vice President	VOTER, Membership
Liz Quigg	Vice President	Webmaster
Olga Rammer	Treasurer	
Di Niesman	Secretary	Programs, Environment

BOARD MEMBERS

Shannon Burns (Resigned)	
Denise Curtis (Resigned)	
Barb Deli (Resigned)	
Frank Goetz	Action
Allene Harding	Voter Registration
Beth O'Malley	Finance Drive
Jane Hodgkinson	Voter Service
Bobbi Walsh	Special Projects
Maria Owens	Programs
Missey Wilhelm	Past President, ex officio

COMMITTEES AND OBSERVER CORPS

Listed below are local action and study committees, the chair people and members. Also included is the observer corps for public meetings.

		Observer Corps	City Council – Jan Kay Park District – Jane Hodgkinson DuPage County Forest Preserve-Shannon Burns
Education Study Committee	Roberta Jacobson, Chair Helen White Di Niesman Joan Fefferman Pam Balfors	Programs	Di Niesman, Chair Beth O'Malley Maria Owens
Environment and Healthcare	Diane Niesman, Chair Environment&Healthcare Jane Taylor Betty Bradshaw Allene Harding Pat Duhey Jane Hodgkinson Shannon Burns Bobbi Walsh	Publications	Chair, none Everything is online.

Housing	Jan Kay, Chair Barb Deli Kathy Kregor Susannah Levine	Viable Downtown Businesses	Chair, none Mary Wachter Barb Deli Jan Kay
Finance Drive	Beth O'Malley, Chair Olga Rammer, Treasurer	Voter Service	Voter Registration – Allene Harding, Chair Registrars Candidate Forums – Jane Hodgkinson, Chair Missey Wilhelm
Membership	Denise Niesman, Chair Martha Barmantje Mary Shuemaker Roberta Jacobson, Data Olga Rammer, Treasurer	Technology (NEW)	Chair, none Missey Wilhelm Denise Curtis Beryl Jacobson Liz Quigg
Nominating	Charlotte Murphy, Chair Nancy Bielawski Carol Honeywell Liz Quigg Beth O'Malley	Budget	Chair, none Olga Rammer, Treasurer Joan Fefferman, Roberta Jacobson

PROPOSED RULES FOR 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 for 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 FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING May 19, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 P.M. by President Missey Wilhelm.
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 55th Annual Meeting and approve the minutes. The motion carried.
4. Barb Pape presented the Marget Hamilton Award to Ruth Riha.
5. Roberta Jacobson presented the 2011-2012 Proposed Budget and reviewed various changes that were made in expenditures and revenues. The new budget eliminates "carry-overs". It reflects an attempt to reduce costs by no longer providing free dinners and charging the full cost of the annual dinner. It includes a \$700 amount set aside for the expenditure study if it gets approved. There is a \$405 deficit that will disappear if the expenditure study does not get approved. We will add a "student membership" to the website. The printing costs have gone down because we are using email and the website to disseminate information. The League will now accept contributions to the Education Fund. These can be used for partial payment of the PMP.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the budget. The motion carried.

6. Martha Barmantje presented the by-laws committees recommendation for a small revision that made our by-laws conform to a change made by the LWVIL at the State Convention last June. It involved the removal of "honorary" from the sentence:

"Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues."

A motion was made and seconded to accept the change. The motion carried.

7. Barb Pape 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	<i>No candidate</i>
For Vice-President	<i>Liz Quigg</i>
For Secretary	<i>Diane Niesman</i>

The following Director positions are for two-year terms:

*Allene Harding
Jane Hodgkinson
Shannon Burns
Barb Deli*

The following are nominees for the 2012 Nominating Committee:

*Charlotte Murphy, Chair
Nancy Bielawski
Carol Honeywell*

9. Roberta Jacobson nominated Bobbi Walsh for a position of Director from the floor. The motion was made, seconded and accepted to make Bobbi a Director.

9. Missey Wilhelm recognized the members of the current Board and thanked them for their service.

10. Missey Wilhelm recognized the new Board and made some comments about the new executive committee that will be fulfilling the duties of the President. The executive committee consists of Diane and Denise Niesman, Liz Quigg and Olga Rammer. Denise Niesman added to those comments and noted how the executive committee was already meeting to understand how to establish how to run the board.

11. Denise asked those in attendance to provide direction for the 2011-12 Board. Missey made more remarks reiterating the need to streamline the activities of the League.

12. The Annual Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by: Liz Quigg, Secretary

WHEATON LWV PROPOSED BUDGET 2012-13				
EXPENSES	2010-11 Budget	2011-12 Budget	2012-13 Budget	Notes
Affiliations				
Great Wheaton Chamber	175	125	125	Unused 2011-12
LWVIL per Member Payment	2,339.00	2,200.00	1,904.00	fewer members
LWVUS per Member Payment	2,587.00	2,400.00	2,101.00	fewer members
Lake Michigan LWV	25	25	25	
Delegates and Travel				
National or State Conventions	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,000.00	
Workshops or Regional meetings	200	200	200	
General Administration				
Board Tools	100	100	100	
LWV President	300	100	100	unused as of 4/10/12
Operating Costs				
Bank Charge & office expense	0	160	150	based on actual
Cost of Finance Drive	300	350	160	based on actual
Insurance	125	95	85	fewer members
Postage Expense	500	300	110	based on actual
Printing Expense	1,500.00	750	320	based on actual
Website fee	160	200	200	
Programs and Activities				
Action	75	0	0	unused 2011-12
Annual Dinner Expense	200	0	0	tracks deposit
Event Rental	100	0	0	unused 2011-12
General Meetings & Programs	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.00	based on actual
Member recruitment & retention	0	200	650	projected need
Publications	100	100	100	
Special Events	100	200	100	projected need
Voter Service	200	200	100	
Total Expenditures	\$12,586.00	\$11,205.00	\$7,630.00	

INCOME				
Contingency Income	0	400	0.00	Annual Dinner
Fund Raisers	700	500	0.00	based on actual as of 4/10/12
Interest Income	0	0	0.00	
LWV Dues	5,818.00	5,200.00	4,583.00	fewer members
Member Contributions	1,500.00	1,400.00	500.00	fewer contributions
Non-Member Contributions	3,000.00	2,900.00	2,550.00	fewer contributions
September Meeting	0	400	0.00	September Dinner
Total Income	\$11,018.00	\$10,800.00	\$7,633.00	
ASSETS				
LWVIL Education Fund		358.61	468.91	as of 4/10/12
Certificate of Deposit		7,099.94	7,112.37	as of 4/10/12
Checking		5,057.02	6,245.73	as of 4/10/12
Savings		2,512.49	13	as of 4/10/12
Total Assets		15,253.79	13,840.01	as of 4/10/12
Liabilities		0	0.00	as of 4/10/12
Equity		15,253.79	13,840.01	
Total Liabilities & Equity		15,253.79	13,840.01	

**PMP based on
Membership report on
1/11/2012**

2012-2013

Local Individual L1	48	PMP for LWVIL 27/\$40.50; for LWVUS \$29.80/\$44.70;
1st Household L2 R2	15	Total PMP \$56.80/\$85.20 per household of 2 people.
2nd Household L3 R3	15	Wheaton LWV dues \$65 for one, \$97.50 per household.
National N1 N2 N3 N4	0	Wheaton LWV nets \$8.20 of individual dues
Honorary L4 R4	2	Members = 80 as of Jan 2012;
Student	0	48 @ \$65 = \$3120, 15 @ \$97.50 = \$1462.50 (2 honorary)
Total Members 2012	80	TOTAL 2013 dues are \$5146 based on 80 Members

2012 Budget Committee:

Roberta Jacobson, Joan Fefferman, Olga Rammer

The Guidelines and Policy Committee Report

Non-Partisan Policy

* Current:

PUBLIC OFFICE - Board members shall not be candidates for, nor hold an elected, public office. If a board member decides to run for public office, the member shall resign from the board. (Examples: Mayor, Councilperson, School Board, Township Assessor)

* Proposed:

PUBLIC OFFICE - A Board member shall not run for, nor hold, any partisan elective office at any level of government. A Board member may run for or hold a local non-partisan elective office, after consultation with and approval by the Wheaton LWV Board of Directors.

This proposed change is consistent with the policy of the LWV US:

"Elected Office. A Board member shall not run for, nor hold, any partisan elective office at any level of government. A Board member may run for or hold a local non-partisan elective office, after consultation with and approval by the LWVUS/EF Board and the president of the affected local League."

Guidelines and Policy Committee,

Di Niesman

Denise Niesman

Liz Quigg

Missey Wilhelm

BY- LAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

By-laws Committee Report

Current:

ARTICLE IV Board of Directors

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

(a) The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the League, eight (8) elected Directors, and not more than eight (8) appointed directors. Four (4) directors shall be elected in even-numbered years and four (4) directors shall be elected in odd-numbered years, by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years; or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding eight (8), as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

Proposed:

ARTICLE IV Board of Directors

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

(a) The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the League, **six (6)** elected Directors, and not more than eight (8) appointed directors. **Three (3)** directors shall be elected in even-numbered years and **three (3)** directors shall be elected in odd-numbered years, by the general membership at each Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years; or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional Directors, not exceeding eight (8), as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of office of the appointed Directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

This revision is recommended by the Board.

Respectfully submitted by the By-laws Committee

Martha Barmantje

Denise Niesman

Ellen Noth

LOCAL PROGRAM 2012-2013

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.

AREAS FOR EMPHASIS – 2012-2013

Areas for emphasis include the following issues and will be carried out through the Working Groups in place.

- Diversity
- Education
- Environment
- Healthcare

- Affordable Housing
- Viable Downtown
- Fiscal Policy / School Funding

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee places the following candidates in nomination for two-year terms on the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton

Officers:

Missey Wilhelm Vice President

Olga Rammer Treasurer

The following Director positions are for two years:

Maria Owens

Denise Niesman

Nancy Wilen

The following are nominees for the 2013 Nominating Committee:

Helen Westlake, Chairman

Carol Honeywell

Ellen Noth

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlotte Murphy, Chairman

Nancy Bielawski

Carol Honeywell

Beth O'Malley

Liz Quigg

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012 – 2013

with year term ends

OFFICERS

President	Unfilled (2014)
Vice President	Liz Quigg (2013)
Vice President	Missey Wilhelm (2014)
Secretary	Diane Niesman (2013)
Treasurer	Olga Rammer (2014)

BOARD MEMBERS

Denise Niesman (2014)	Allene Harding (2013)
Nancy Willens (2014)	Jane Hodgkinson (2013)
Maria Owens (2014)	
Bobbi Walsh (2013)	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

To put it mildly, the first year of governance of the League of Women Voters of Wheaton by an Executive Committee has been "interesting." We started the 2011-2012 year last June at the first Board of Directors meeting with both new and old members in attendance. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we ended the year this May with a much smaller Board.

Our first official business was to send delegates to the State Convention in June, armed with a non-recommended Expenditure Study proposal. Missey Wilhelm, Roberta Jacobson, Beth O'Malley and Di Niesman put together a caucus program, handouts, bookmarks, and a power point presentation. Shannon Burns joined the committee in Skokie, and we came very close to having the Convention accept the proposal. It was a great learning experience for us all.

Once we started in earnest in the fall, we got more comfortable with the team approach of directing the Board. Denise kept us on point during Board meetings. Di did her best to figure out where we had been and where we needed to go with the minutes and agenda. Liz and Olga dragged us into the 21st Century with a Facebook account, a PayPal account for dues and contributions and online banking.

September served up a state senator and state representatives, instead of salad, at a Legislative Update that was well received by the public and members. October was the month for the State of the Community, always a favorite for the public, too. November, for members only, was the culmination of the national Education Study with presentations by Pam Belfors, Joan Fefferman and Di Niesman and the consensus questions moderated by Missey Wilhelm. Many thanks to Roberta Jacobson for Chairing the Education Study Committee and entering consensus results online. The LWV US now has a position on The Federal Role in Education. December brought us a break and a brunch. January was the month for candidate forums. February's meeting, again for members only, was our Program Planning Potluck. We tried something new in March by purchasing and showing the documentary "Pricele\$\$" at the Wheaton Public Library. Turnout was light, but there were some members of the public in attendance. We own the DVD and hope to partner with other organizations to show it again. As long as campaign financing is an issue, this film will be timely. April's program was also designed to attract both members and public and timed to be right around Earth Day, but we only had 8 members in attendance for the presentation by the American Lung Association.

We would like to thank Missey Wilhelm, Jane Hodgkinson and Lori Miller for stepping in as moderators and spokespersons during the year, whenever we needed a nonpartisan voice to represent the Board. They all fill that role nicely.

We were happy to serve as your Executive Committee. This format is becoming more common nationally, and we felt like trailblazers.

Denise Niesman, Liz Quigg, Olga Rammer and Di Niesman

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2011-2012

We ended the 2011-2012 program year with 80 members, which is down from last year. We welcomed 4 new members this year.

Over half our members, 48, are individuals, and we have 15 household memberships. We have worked hard at increasing our visibility by publicizing our meetings, resulting in more

visitors than members at many meetings this year. We actively recruit visitors at the programs. Candidate forums and highly visible programs have generated the bulk of our “new recruits.”

The League Membership Booklet was updated and posted on our web page. Generating the booklet electronically reduces the initial cost and allows us to update as needed without any cost. This is particularly handy after elections, when the Political directory needs to be revised. The Member Directory is not posted to the website, but is delivered electronically, via email. Again this allows for more timely updates.

Membership brochures were updated as well and made available at our meetings and at other public events. Members can contact the Membership chair for a supply of brochures to distribute, as appropriate. There is also a version that can be printed from our website. Members are encouraged to have a copy of the membership brochure or the website (<http://wheatonlwvil.org/join.html>) handy to share with anyone who might be interested.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Niesman
Membership Chair

FINANCE DRIVE 2011-12

The 2011 Finance Drive raised \$2526 for our League. Our drive would not be possible without the gift of time and effort from our Advisory Council: Christopher Barton, Jim Hofner, Steven Johnson and Ed Walsh. At the end of the Voter, you will find the current businesses that support our League. Please let them know that you recognize and value their support.

Beth O'Malley
Finance Drive

VOTER SERVICE - CANDIDATE FORUMS 2011-2012

2011- Sept. We had 42 people (in and out) at our “Evening with our Legislators” where Senators Tom Johnson, Carole Pankau, and Representative Sandy Pihos gave us an overview of the complexity of the Illinois budget crisis and solving those problems. This event was sponsored by the Wheaton League and Chamber of Commerce.

2012-Jan. 24 and 25th we sponsored two candidates nights. The first night included candidates for state senators and representatives, the second night had platforms for county board and forest preserve boards from Districts 4 and 6. For both nights we had a total of 175 people plus the number that watched it on the websites of the Chamber or League.

On March 8, we co-sponsored a forum for Democratic and Independent candidates for the U. S. Congressional District 6 with the Glen Ellyn League and the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce. Approximately 70 people attended this event.

Jane Hodgkinson
Voter Service-Candidate Forums

VOTER SERVICE - REGISTRATION

Registering voters continues to be an important League of Women Voters service, in spite of the availability of more opportunities for registration, e.g. on-line, by mail, or in connection with driver's license renewal.

We continue to provide an opportunity for registration at the Wheaton Public Library the first Tuesday of each month. This is an easy way to keep the League's name before the public. There have been at least six registrations in the past couple of months, including several 18-year-olds and a newly-naturalized citizen.

In this election year, I expect more interest in registration events as it gets closer to November. I already have a tentative one lined up for Brighton Gardens in September.

Allene Harding

ACTION ITEMS FOR 2011-2012

There have been many opportunities to contact our representatives on League positions during the past year on issues ranging from protecting clean air, supporting affordable housing, preserving the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, and fighting against the Citizens United Supreme Court decision.

Frank Goetz

SPECIAL PROJECTS 2011-12

We held our December Holiday Brunch at the home of Phil and Mary Suess for the third 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 year.

The business part of our year began on February 16th at the Program Planning meeting that was, once again, held at the Gary Methodist Church. We had 23 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 17, 2012. The social part of the evening will begin at 6:30 PM with a buffet dinner beginning at 7:15 PM. Wine will be available, by the glass, inside the meeting room. Member Roger Kotecki will provide entertainment during the cocktail/ dinner time. The business meeting will begin between 8:00 and 8:15 pm.

Bobbi Walsh
Special Projects Chair

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING FOR 2011

Our Wheaton LWV Program Planning Meeting was held on February 16th. Before we reviewed national as well as local positions, we had a short discussion about the 2013 State Convention. We had thought that we would not be able to present a study proposal in 2011, so we would work on it for 2013. But, since we did give it a go, albeit unsuccessful, in 2011, it was decided that we will, once again, try to get support to change the state's Fiscal Policy to include Expenditures rather

than just Revenue. How aggressive we will be will depend on how enthusiastic our membership is during next year's Program Planning meeting.

LWVUS Program Planning

There was a consensus to retain all current LWVUS positions. All local Leagues had been contacted to choose to support one of three proposals at the national convention in June.

- LWVDC (Washington, DC) proposal on Sentencing Policy (consensus)
- LWV Columbia-Boone County proposal on Department of Peace (study)
- LWV Lee County Florida proposal on study on nuclear engery.

The members really wanted to support all three, but learned that we could only pick one. The consensus on sentencing was the proposal we chose to report to LWVUS.

Local Planning

All current positions were retained.

Helen Westlake reported that she still attends the Cable TV meetings and would like to have other members attend.

Even though our areas of concentration (listed below) were retained, we don't have any working groups for every area. This is something to consider going forward.

- Diversity
- Education
- Environment
- Healthcare
- Affordable Housing
- Viable Downtown
- Fiscal Policy / School Funding

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Niesman

PUBLICATIONS

This committee was established to encourage members to know the policies and positions of the state and federal League of Women Voters. All of this material is online now so there is no longer a need for a Publications Chair.

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. This year we decided to make a foray into social media by creating a Facebook group as a way to communicate with our members and to promote our events.

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

Facebook users can join our group and make posts to the group. We currently do not limit the membership of the group to LWV members, but we approve new members and monitor posts. If a post is partisan, we can delete it. Currently we have 35 members, some who are LWV Wheaton members and some who are not. Any Facebook member can request to join the group. The success of the group depends on the activity and the quality of the posts and how members set up their notifications. We hope that in the future the Facebook group might generate more interest in our League and perhaps encourage more people to come to our events and join our League.

The Nuts and Bolts: To make the group, we first created a generic email address facebook@wheatonlwvil.org using LWV Easyweb. Any mail sent to this address currently goes to Denise Niesman or Liz Quigg. This can be changed as those responsible for the Wheaton LWV Facebook group change. We used this email address to make a Facebook member named "Wheaton LWV" who could log in as facebook@wheatonlwvil.org and create the "Wheaton League of Women Voters Facebook Group". This allowed Denise or Liz to administer the group and to make posts rather than use their personal Facebook account. We wanted our posts and the profile picture that appears with each post to be non-partisan. This does not preclude our group members from making posts whose profile photos are non-partisan. We added Missey Wilhelm as an administrator. As administrators, Missey, Denise and Liz can add friends so "friending" them and asking them to make you a member is another way to join.

Liz Quigg
Wheaton LWV Webmaster

REPORT OF ACTION COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENT / HEALTH CARE

Our committee held no meetings this year. Other than communicating the date for monthly Electronic Recycling in the VOTER, Environment and Health Care took a back seat to other important programs. We did make sure that members were notified about the LWVUS "Clean Air Promise" Campaign, kicked off in 2011.

On April 19, 2012, we invited representatives from the American Lung Association to present a program about their 2012 "Healthy Air Campaign." This project closely mirrors the League campaign, as they both are dedicated to promoting the Clean Air Act and protecting it from legislation that would either weaken it or defund the EPA. The attendance was dismal, so one suspects the environment is not tops on members' lists of priorities.

Next year, we hope to do a program about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

March 23, 2013 will mark the 3rd anniversary of its passage and more parts of the act will have phased in, if the act has not been struck down by the Supreme Court, that is. There are many local resources that could do a presentation on "Obamacare" and answer many members' questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Niesman
Chair of Health/Environment Committee

HOUSING GROUP

I observe various boards for the League. DuPage Housing Authority, Wheaton City Council, and the DuPage County Health and Human Services Committee which often takes action involving housing issues for seniors and others.

I also am a founding member of the DuPage Housing Action Coalition of which Kathy Gregor is now co chair. I represent the League on the Wheaton Affordable Housing Breakfast events. I also am a member of the Needs Assessment Committee of the DuPage Continuum of Care initiative which deals with housing for the homeless population and is a County function of HUD at the National level.

We continue to keep alert on issues in Wheaton and the area that impact the affordable housing issue. Our action items come from League positions on all levels. Often these issues are intertwined with other social policy positions at each level.

We continue to advocate for affordable housing legislation through our membership in the Business and Professional People for the Public Interest and Housing Action Illinois. We have asked for legislative support on budget items before the IL legislature which affect the quality and quantity of housing support available to lower income individuals and families. We continue to work with several affordable housing organizations on the National level as well as the State and County level.

We look forward to continuing the advocacy work of the Wheaton League.

Jan Kay
Chair of Housing Group

VIABLE DOWNTOWN WHEATON

Mary Wachter, Barb Deli and Jan Kay have acted as a committee of the whole rather than anyone of us being the Chair. Also, we have not actually met this year. There have been informal conversations throughout the year among members. However, I have continued to be the Wheaton City Council observer for the League. I attend most Council meetings as well as most Wheaton Council Planning Sessions. These meet on alternate weeks each month. I also try to watch the Planning and Zoning Committee online when possible. Each of these sessions are potentially important to positions the Wheaton League holds on several items.

The City Council is investigating the improvement of the Central Business area and have hired a Consultant firm to aid in this work. Recently, the long vacant City owned property on N. Main St. has returned to the tax rolls following the sale of the building to a private business. There remain several vacant properties in the central business area which the Council is hoping the consultant's review will give some positive aid.

In addition to the City Council's work in the business success, the Downtown Business Association and the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce continue to support any viable business wishing to come to the downtown. In fact, there have been several new businesses open within the last year and even in recent years.

The restaurant and coffee shop businesses continue to do well and bring action to other businesses in the Central business area. With the addition of the First Trust business, there is a greater potential for businesses in the central business area.

The Wheaton Theater remains for sale, being owned by a bank. There is another private business committee working to retain this business for the benefit of our downtown and community as a whole.

In addition, the former Wheaton Central/Hubble Middle school property has been sold and a new grocery store will be built on part of that property. The Wheaton Park District will also be part of that reconfigured property, using the ball and track and tennis fields as well as the indoor gym area for recreational use.

The Central Business area is one of high importance to the City Council and very important to the residents of our Community. The League is happy to support each entity's forward progress on building and maintaining our town.

Jan Kay

LEAGUE OF VOTERS

WHEATON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE AFFILIATE OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WHEATON

We did not have a League member to be a liaison for the LOV for the years 2011-2012, however Marie Feffermen wrote a report on their activities.

The League of Voters has about fifteen members on any given day, and we meet every other Tuesday. We just concluded a debate among members regarding Teacher Tenure. With input from an insider (Mr. McEvilly, our sponsor), we were able to see the positives and negatives, its effect on teachers, and the not-so-indirect effect on students. We have participated in several smaller discussions about our current presidential candidates, resulting in a conversation much less civil than that of the Teacher Tenure debate. Kelsey Greenagel and Marie Fefferman (Co-Presidents) are planning a "Letters to Our Troops Drive", which would entail having an evening at Wheaton North where kids would come and simply write a quick letter thanking our troops. We also plan to make a meal for the Veterans at the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Downtown Wheaton. We hope we will be able to accomplish these last two feats since Graduation is rapidly approaching. This year has been a fantastic year for LOV, opening with our trip to the Iowa Caucus and closing with service. We have yet to hold elections for our new officers, but luckily, we have a few members who are interested.

Marie Fefferman
Co-president League of Voters