



# The Voter

Wheaton LWV January/February 2015

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**Important Dates**

When	Where	What
1/15 7:00	WPD	COD
1/19 6:15	Elmhurst College	MLK
2/19	WPD	Program Planning
3/19	GE Civics Center	Food
4/16	WPL	Deconstructing Your Supper
5/7		Annual Meeting

<http://www.wheatonlwv.org/calendar.html>



## President's Letter

**Happy New Year to you all!** May you be blessed with joy, good health, and safe travels!

Please note a few changes for the New Year:

**January 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting** - Various claims and accusations have been made in recent months regarding the **College of DuPage**. Can we separate fact from fiction? The League of Women Voters of Wheaton and the Citizen Advocacy Center have invited representatives from the COD Administration, the COD Board of Trustees, the faculty, and the student leadership council. They will participate in a panel to answer the public's questions. Mark your calendars - it should be a very good meeting.

**February 14<sup>th</sup> – Celebrating 95 years!** The LWV of the United States began in Chicago at the Congress Hotel on February 14, 1920. Carrie Chapman Catt urged the National American Woman Suffrage Association to change direction and help American women learn about the issues and "be worthy of the privilege of voting."

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** - Do Not Forget the Program Planning Meeting! See Diane Niesman's article for more details.

**February and or March (Dates to be determined)** West Chicago has two contested alderman races ... the Voter Service Committee is interested in what races our members want us to cover. Send Barb Laimins your suggestions.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>** – 2015 Annual Meeting, which is earlier than usual, so be sure to mark your calendar. In preparation for the annual meeting and the election of the new board of directors, the **Nominating Committee** is looking for nominations from our members. Check out the article from Lori Miller inside – please send your nominations – we have many qualified candidates as members.

Not that all of the above isn't just a boat load of fun, but you might have noticed that we are trying to add some fun and diverse activities for our members. **The Book Club** is a great way to get to know members better and enjoy a lively/interesting discussion about great books. We are currently reading *A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence and Power* by Jimmy Carter. The first **Discussion over Drinks** evening was very interesting and I am looking forward to the next meeting.

Celebrate the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the League of Women Voters and make this year your year to be more active in the league ... there is so much you can do!

Missey Wilhelm  
President



## Holiday Brunch

*Dr. Martin Luther King  
Celebration*

*January 19, 2015*

*6:15 P.M. Music Prelude*

*6:30 P.M. Program  
Hammerschmidt Chapel  
Elmhurst College  
190 Prospect Ave.  
Elmhurst, IL*

*Speaker: Dr. Darlene Ruscitti,  
Supt. Regional Office  
of Education*





# *Separating Fact from Fiction*

Various claims and accusations have been made in recent months regarding the College of DuPage.

**The Wheaton League of Women Voters  
and the**

**Citizen Advocacy Center have invited**

Representatives from the College of DuPage Administration

Members of the College Board of Trustees

College Faculty Association

Student Leadership Council

To participate in a panel and answer your questions on



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

*January 15<sup>th</sup>*

**At 7:00 PM**

**Wheaton Park District Community Center**

**1777 S. Blanchard**

**Wheaton**



**The Public is invited and encouraged to attend**

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

### **FINANCE DRIVE: REACHING OUT TO LEAGUE MEMBERS**

The League of Women Voters of Wheaton launched its annual Finance Drive in December by reaching out to the broader community for contributions to support League efforts to foster informed participation in government at all levels. We are also reaching out to *you* as a League Member to contribute to this effort.

While your membership is an indicator of your support for the League, your annual dues investment is forwarded to the State and National organizations and does not remain here with the local. If you have not done so, please consider a contribution to the League of Women Voters of Wheaton to support local efforts. Your contribution may be made by check and mailed to League of Women Voters of Wheaton, P.O. Box 1026, Wheaton, IL 60187 or online at [www.wheatonlwvil.org/donate\\_form.html](http://www.wheatonlwvil.org/donate_form.html).

### **PROGRAMS**

#### **LOOKING BACK**

##### **November 2014**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, thirteen members gathered at the WPD Community Center to take the final exam for our on-line LWVIL Charter School Position Update class. Even though the group was small, the discussion of each consensus question was spirited and in depth. Our results will be approved by the Board of Directors at the January Board meeting and will be sent to the state League by the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. In June, at the LWVIL Convention, the updated position will be voted on for adoption.

The update process this time was an experiment, utilizing social media, rather than forming a committee, holding meetings, etc. In the future, we plan to go back to the "League way" of doing studies, whether they are national, state or local. We will do them only if there are enough interested members to form a committee. It is an enjoyable and educational activity, and we hope more members participate in the future.

#### **LOOKING FORWARD**

##### **January 2015**

As Missey wrote in her President's Message, we will meet at the WPD Community Center on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 for a panel discussion and audience Q&A on the issues and controversy at the College of DuPage. The final list of panelists is still to be determined.

## February 2015

On Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> we will again meet at the Community Center to do the annual members-only Program Planning meeting. Besides going over the LWVIL's positions in anticipation of the June convention, and the annual discussion of our local positions, we will be asking for suggestions for unit meetings in Fall 2015 and Winter/Spring 2016. Please take some time to review both our state and local positions before the meeting. They can be found at these links: <http://www.lwvil.org/where-we-stand.html> and [http://www.wheatonlwvil.org/files/local\\_programs.pdf](http://www.wheatonlwvil.org/files/local_programs.pdf)

We will determine whether we want to retain, restudy/update, drop or are working on positions. We can offer suggestions for new studies and new action foci. For reference, based on input from local Leagues during the 2013 Program Planning process, the following were approved at the 2013 LWVIL Convention:

- Action Foci:
  - Fiscal Policy and Tax Reform: A Constitutional Amendment to Allow for a Graduated Rate Income Tax for Illinois
  - Gun Violence Prevention
  - Redistricting Reform
  - Climate Change
- Position Update:
  - Charter Schools position to reflect changes since 2001.
- Will of Convention:
  - Continue working for a moratorium on fracking, and if the bill regulating the process becomes law, to work for the most effective rules.

Please join us at 7:00 PM for socializing, and this important annual meeting will begin at 7:30 PM. With our input, we can help LWVIL create a viable and action oriented program to move our public policy forward in Illinois for the 2015-2017 biennium.

## March 2015

I have been working closely with Carrie Barrows, VP of Programming for LWV of Glen Ellen, and Sheri Latash from the Glenview League on our two part (March and April) program on Food Safety and Labeling. Sheri is the LWVIL Issues Specialist for Food and Water and also was a member of the update committee for the LWVUS Agriculture Position Update, which was adopted in June 2014. Wheaton League did not participate in this update, but it was sorely needed. The previous position was adopted in 1988. If you haven't already read the new position, I think you will find it to be very comprehensive: <http://lwv.org/content/lwvus-position-federal-agriculture-policies>

You can see that Federal Agriculture policies are a huge issue. The safety of our food is also a huge issue. We're considering calling our meetings: **Food, Glorious Food, Or Is It?** We want to focus on one aspect of the updated position in our March meeting: **Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to the treatment of disease.** Does that sound dull to you? Have you ever heard of superbugs, which are antibiotic-resistant bacteria? There is a direct relationship between the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in farm animals (mostly factory farms, which tend to keep the animals in unsanitary crowded living conditions) and the emergence of these superbugs. To make matters even more interesting, Peter Roskam, Congressman for our 6<sup>th</sup> District members has introduced a bill in the House named DISARM to deal with superbugs. He feels more federal dollars to pharmaceutical companies for development of more powerful antibiotics, and fast tracking the antibiotics to the market by decreasing FDA regulations is the answer to the problem. We are contemplating inviting someone from Representative Roskam's office to speak at the March meeting. Our first task is to find a qualified and interesting speaker, and Sheri is working on this project for us. Her network is vast and wide, and we're confident the speaker will be able to explain this very important issue.



program will begin at 7:30 PM.

## April 2015

Part two of **Food, Glorious Food, Or Is It?** will take place in the movie room of the Wheaton Public Library, 225 N Cross Street on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 6:30 PM for socializing, and the documentary, **DECONSTRUCTING YOUR SUPPER** will begin at 7:00 PM. It is a 48 minute film, so there should be time for Q&A. This is an eye-opening journey into the billion dollar battle to control global food production. ***"Whoever controls the food supply will control a country or a nation."*** Percy Schmeiser, a farmer sued by Monsanto.

Di Niesman, Program Chair

## MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

**New Members-** We introduced our four newest members to you at the October "Get the Scoop" meeting. You will be reading about them in upcoming VOTERS. They are Emily Consolazio, Susan Drinan, Marilyn Kroll, and Mary McGinty. Since then, we've added Erica Loiacono. Erica is the Director of Public Relations for School District 200. Please introduce yourself to our new members at meetings so they get to know our league members.

### **League Turns “95” in February**

The League of Women “Voters will be celebrating its 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday in February 2015. Local leagues are encouraged to celebrate in some way and we are thinking our next Discussion over Drinks will publicize this anniversary. Our Feb/March event will be held in Carol Stream and we will be inviting the Carol Stream Women’s Club and the Winfield Newcomers Club to learn about the league and our activities. Stay tuned for more information to come.

### **Annual Meeting in May**

Our Annual Meeting will be a dinner event at Ivy Restaurant in Wheaton on Thursday May 7, 2015. Registration forms will be in the next voter with more information about the dinner. Missey would like to start giving an award to a member who can’t say no to helping the league. While the board discusses this idea, keep thinking about a worthy recipient. Also, if you have a suggestion for a dinner speaker, please contact Jane Hodgkinson, Barb Kilton, or Barbara Laimins.

### **LWVUS Legislative Priorities (REMINDER)**

It's a new year and a new Congress. The LWVUS Board will be setting legislative priorities for the upcoming session in January. We ask members and local Leagues to submit their suggestions. Here is some background for you to consider as you decide what you would like to recommend.



The Board sets priorities using this filter: opportunities for the League to make an impact; program decisions made at Convention and/or Council; member interest; and resources available to manage effectively. We also look realistically at the political climate and composition of Congress. And doing that, we have to acknowledge that the incoming Congressional leadership has issued statements that are not supportive of League program. Realistically, we will have to expend resources on defending voting rights and threats to existing campaign finance law, good climate change work and the Affordable Health Care Act. So as you consider what to recommend as legislative priorities, ask yourself how important you think it is for the League to fight for our core issues.

If you would like to make suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities, please email Advocacy Committee Chair Chris Carson at [carsonlww@yahoo.com](mailto:carsonlww@yahoo.com). Please indicate whether the suggestions are from an individual member, a committee, Board or membership meeting. Suggestions must be received by January 12.

Jane Hodgkinson, Chair

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REQUEST

Hello and happy 2015 all. We have been blessed with caring and competent leadership of our esteemed area League of Women Voters, and it's time to ensure that continuity by determining our next Board of directors, including our President. After serving on 3 League boards for 15 years (Wheaton, Glen Ellyn and LWVIL), Missey has earned a break to explore the retirement life. If you are interested in serving on our Board, or know a member that would be a great compliment to our returning Board members, please contact me.

And our Nominating Committee (Jane H, Barb L, Barb K, Beth O, and myself) will be happy to contact them and discuss the roles and responsibilities. We have many League members that have fulfilled their two-year appointments, and hopefully some will decide to give it another two years. 2015 and 2016 will be great years to recruit new League members and continue the legacy and good work of our visionary organization that makes a positive difference for our nation. Please step up a bit and get involved, we need and want your talents to get us to that next level! Thank you!

Lori Miller, Chairman of the Nominating Committee for 2015.



### **What YOU should know now about the LWVIL JUNE 2015 CONVENTION**

**The Committee:** Annette Smith (Naperville LWV) is chair of the local arrangements committee. The committee members are Carrie Burrow (Glen Ellyn), Barb Ciesko (Downers Grove, Lisle, Woodridge LWV), Diana Hoke (Roselle/Bloomingtondale LWV), Roberta Jacobson (Wheaton LWV), & Michelle Thorsell (Glen Ellyn).

**Convention Dates & Location:** The convention is June 5-7, 2015, at the Hilton Lisle/Naperville just east of the intersection of Naperville and Warrenville Rds. (3000 Corporate West Dr., Lisle, IL).

**Volunteers:** There's a place for **you!** This is an opportunity to meet & mingle with a terrific group of men and women, and to help LWVIL to have a great convention. You can volunteer 2 or more hours, working while sitting, standing or moving around. Tasks include Hospitality, Registration & Credentials; Silent auction/pubs & wares; and during the plenary sessions as a: Page, Doorkeeper, Microphone monitor, Teller/timekeeper and PowerPoint operator.

**Needs:** We need about 80 volunteers from nearby LWV units, to fill 2-3 hour time slots during the weekend. The actual number of volunteers and time slots will be determined based on the evolving convention schedule. Having more volunteers adds to the friendliness felt by delegates and visitors; you can help create a more pleasant experience for everyone.

## Volunteer Perks:

1. You may observe plenary sessions and participate in workshops as space allows.
2. Visitor registration fee is waived (delegate registration fee still applies).
3. Meals and/or refreshments are provided as needed, based on assignments.

### **TWO ACTIONS FOR YOU TO TAKE NOW:**

1. **PUT CONVENTION ON YOUR CALENDAR:: June 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ Hilton Lisle/Naperville.**

Tentative abbreviated schedule follows:

#### **Friday 6/5:**

- 12 PM Registration/credentials (& throughout 3 days).
- 1 PM-4:15 PM 3 Workshops
- 6:00 PM Dine Around

#### **Saturday 6/6**

- 7:00 AM Silent auction set up, followed by 8 AM-8 PM monitor auction;
- 8:00 PM Close & take down auction after settlement
- 7:30-9:30 AM Registration
- 8-9:15 AM 3 Caucus/chat sessions; + Tips session for 1<sup>st</sup> time delegates
- 9:30-12 & 2-5 PM  
2 Plenaries: doorkeepers, microphone monitors, tellers, PowerPoint operators
- 5-6:00 PM Caucus
- 5-6:30 PM Registration
- 6-7:00 PM Cash bar
- 7-9:30 PM Dinner & program, 9:30-11 PM caucus & hospitality

#### **Sunday 6/7**

- 7:30-9:30 AM Registration
- 8:00 AM Caucus/chat
- 9:30-12 Final Plenary: doorkeepers, microphone monitors, tellers, PowerPoint operators

2. **VOLUNTEER! CONTACT ROBERTA JACOBSON** and give LWV a few hours of your time. Ask for details. Let's work together to make this a terrific convention.

## Meetings and Highlights Links

- <http://www.csparks.org/about-us/board-of-commissioners/> for Carol Stream Park District Board agendas and minutes
- [http://www.carolstream.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=404&Itemid=80](http://www.carolstream.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=404&Itemid=80) for Carol Stream Village Board agendas and minutes
- <http://www.warrenville.il.us/agendacenter> for Warrenville agendas and minutes
- <http://warrenvilleparks.org/board/minutes.asp> for Warrenville Park district minutes
- [http://www.westchicago.org/government/MeetingsMinutesAndAgendas/MA\\_CityCouncil\\_2013.html](http://www.westchicago.org/government/MeetingsMinutesAndAgendas/MA_CityCouncil_2013.html) for West Chicago City Council Meeting minutes
- <http://www.we-goparks.org/board-minutes.asp> for West Chicago Park District meeting agendas and minutes
- [http://www.wego33.org/cms/page\\_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1276352580306](http://www.wego33.org/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1276352580306) for District 33 information
- [http://www.d94.org/boe/previous\\_agenda.htm](http://www.d94.org/boe/previous_agenda.htm) for District 94 minutes and schedules
- <http://www.wheaton.il.us/Government/councilhighlights/2013/default.aspx?id=7532> for Wheaton City Council highlights or <http://www.wheaton.il.us/government/detail.aspx?id=330> for minutes of Wheaton City Council meetings or videos.
- <http://www.cusd200.org/235310123124748440/site/default.asp> for podcasts of District 200 school board meetings.
- <http://www.wheatonparkdistrict.com/pgs/about/bmeetings.html> for agendas, minutes and videos of Wheaton Park District meetings
- <http://www.villageofwinfield.com/index.aspx?nid=128> for Winfield Village Board agendas and minutes
- [http://www.cod.edu/about/board\\_of\\_trustees/minutes.aspx](http://www.cod.edu/about/board_of_trustees/minutes.aspx) for the minutes of the COD Board of Trustee meetings.

**WE THANK OUR LOCAL SUPPORTERS**

Each fall, the Wheaton LWV asks businesses and professional people in the community to help support our work. These are the supporters to-date. When you patronize them, thank them in person for supporting the Wheaton League of Women Voters.

Richard Armbrust	Armbrust Plumbing & Heating	111 E. Illinois St., Wheaton 60187	630-668-6273	<a href="http://armbrustplumbing.com">armbrustplumbing.com</a>
Tim Benshoof	Benshoof & Co.	PO Box 3355, Wheaton 60187	630-462-6780	
Dr. Helen Dane	Danada Veterinary Hospital	10 W. Loop Rd., Wheaton 60189	630-665-6161	<a href="http://danadavet.com">danadavet.com</a>
Dave Diersen	GOP USA Illinois	915 Cove Ct., Wheaton 60189	630-653-0462	<a href="http://gopillinois.com">gopillinois.com</a>
Lori Miller	LPL Financial	27W130 Roosevelt Rd., Suite 101, Winfield 60190	630-690-0000	
Roy Peregrine	Peregrine, Stime, Newman Ritzman and Bruckner Ltd.	221 E. Illinois St., Wheaton 60187	630-665-1900	<a href="http://psnrb.com">psnrb.com</a>
James Bramsen	Spraying Systems Co.	PO Box 7900, Wheaton 60187	630-665-5000	
Frank Saverino Sr., (Mayor of Carol Stream)	Saverino & Associates Inc.	538 Randy Rd., Carol Stream 60188	630-653-9333	<a href="http://www.teamsaverino.com">www.teamsaverino.com</a>