



The Voter

Wheaton LWV January 2011

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Important Dates!

- 1/20 Program Planning
Potluck
- 2/5 LWVIL Issues Briefing
- 2/17 Unit Meeting -
Education
- 3/15 Candidate Forum
- 4/16 "Tar Creek"



President's Letter

Greetings! I hope you enjoyed a very Merry Christmas with friends and family and are looking forward to a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!

By all accounts the annual Holiday Brunch was a huge success. Thank you, Mary and Phil Suess, for hosting and opening your beautiful home to us again this year. I understand that Roger Kotecki was our troubadour for the day. Thanks, Roger! Thank you also to Joan Fefferman and the Board of Directors for the good food. As sorry as I was to miss the brunch, especially Allene's egg casserole, I enjoyed celebrating Christmas with my family in St. Louis.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE LEAGUE RIGHT NOW?

Please join me in welcoming member Shannon Burns to the Board of Directors filling the spot left by Charlotte Murphy. I look forward to working with Shannon, who brings recent election experience and her own perspective on the DuPage Forest Preserve activities.

On **JANUARY 20th** the meeting agenda is **PROGRAM PLANNING** where members review current LWVIL positions and make recommendations to retain, restudy/update or drop any and consider if our league is interested in making a recommendation for a new study and/or a new action focus item.

At a recent Board of Directors meeting, in a discussion related to the LWVIL program planning and whether the Wheaton LWV might have a suggestion for a state study, a concern was raised that while there are stated league positions related to fiscal policies, the focus seems to be on the revenue side only. Along with a review of current LWVIL positions, you will be asked if our league is interested in making a recommendation to study the LWVIL State Fiscal Policies position to include Expenditures.

We are meeting at the **Gary Methodist Church**, which has a lovely space for the meeting and the potluck. Details included in the VOTER.

Action Item: Come prepared - review material included in the VOTER for information and resources.

WHAT'S COMING?

FEBRUARY 5TH - LWVIL ISSUES BRIEFING 8:30 – 3:00 REGISTER AT WWW.LWVIL.ORG

- Effective ways to lobby Springfield in 2011
- Redistricting: where do we go from here and how do we get there?
- Healthcare reform and its impact on Illinois
- Pension reform: Is it possible? Probable?

FEBRUARY 17th - EDUCATION - Guests are **Dr. Brian Harris**, new superintendent of CUSD 200, who will address plans and challenges for the school district and **Dr. Margo Sorrick**, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, who will speak about the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

★**MARCH 15th - CANDIDATE FORUM** – Yes, that's right! General Elections are April 5!

- Wheaton Mayor, Councilman at Large (2 positions)
- Park District commissioners (4)
- CUSD 200 School Board (3)

★Note to the Board, this is a date change from 3/23 due to availability of the Memorial Room at the Wheaton Park District.

APRIL 16th - "TAR CREEK" PRESENTATION cosponsored with A Rocha, an international conservation group from Wheaton College. The presentation includes a brief introduction to history of Superfund sites and the sites in DuPage county in particular, a screening of the 73 minute film, Tar Creek, and a panel discussion comparing and contrasting the Tar Creek Superfund site with the sites in DuPage county

Missey Wilhelm
January 2011

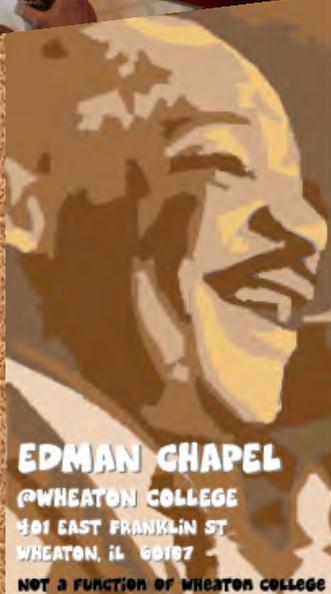


2010-2011 Finance Drive

Every fall the Wheaton LWV asks businesses and professionals in the community to help support our work. We wish to thank all who contributed during the 2010-2011 finance drive. An updated listing can be found at the end of the Voter. In addition, thank you to all members to who assisted in the finance drive this fall. We have raised \$3,120 to help enable us to continue our community programs.

Program Changes

Please note: The reports on pages 5 & 6 include important information about our February (Education) and April ("Tar Creek") meetings.



**JOIN THE 21ST ANNUAL
DUPAGE COUNTY CELEBRATION OF
THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND VISION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

MONDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 2011

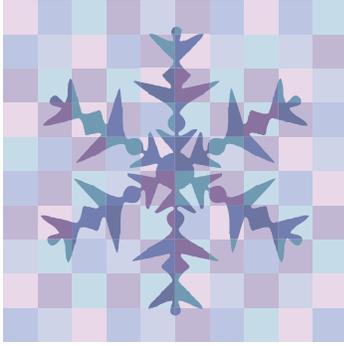
6:30 PM

Save the Date!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

BISHOP VASHTI MURPHY MCKENZIE





**Save the date
January 20th - Thursday**

**Annual program planning
and potluck meeting
At Gary Methodist Church**

Doors open at 6:30 PM

**Dinner begins promptly at 7:00 PM
Program Planning Meeting follows dinner**

LWV will provide the ham for us.

Please bring a dish to share, based on the first letter of your last name as follows:

**A-G Bring a side dish
H-R Bring a dessert
S-Y Bring a salad**

**GARY METHODIST CHURCH
224 NORTH MAIN STREET
WHEATON, IL 60187**

**AT CORNER OF SEMINARY & MAIN
PARKING BEHIND CHURCH**

**WE NEED YOU TO HELP!
PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO SETUP OR CLEANUP.
CALL JOAN FEFFERMAN.**

WORKGROUPS AND OTHERS MONTHLY SYNOPSIS

Education Joan Fefferman

Program:

We are fortunate to have both Dr. Brian Harris, the new Superintendent of District 200, and Dr. Margo Sorrick, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum for District 200, speak to us on Thursday, February 17, 2011, at the unit meeting.

Dr. Sorrick will first speak on the ESEA Act (No Child Left Behind). This will help us to understand not only District 200 issues, but those in the study that we will do in the Fall of 2011 as part of the LWVUS education study. Dr. Harris will highlight topics such as how the district will function under its current budget and also under the tighter and tighter fiscal restraints created by lessening funds from the state.

We are also interested in hearing about the effects of President Obama's Common Standards which would be enforced nationally, the restraints imposed by the Race to the Top, and the continued pressures presented by No Child Left Behind. We wish to ask, "What is the good news?" and "Where do we go from here?"

The Education Committee will consider questions to be asked of both speakers at our committee meeting on January 6 at 9:30 AM, at Joan Fefferman's home. Please attend and help us in this task, so our evening with Dr. Harris and Dr. Sorrick is educational and enjoyable.

For your information: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (Pub.L. 89-10, 79 Stat. 27, 20 U.S.C. ch.70) is a U.S. statute enacted April 11, 1965. The Act is extensive; it funds primary and secondary education, while explicitly forbidding the establishment of a national curriculum. As mandated in the Act, the funds are authorized for professional development, instructional materials, resources to support educational programs, and parental involvement promotion. It also allows military recruiters access to 11th and 12th grade students' names, addresses, and telephone listings when requested. ESEA has been reauthorized every five years since its first enactment, most recently as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Board of Education

Class Rank Elimination Proposal (PowerPoint presentation) recommending that with the incoming freshmen class of 2015, students will no longer be issued a class rank
A link to download this proposal is posted on the Wheaton Warrenville District 200 Board Meeting Highlights page. In addition, that page has links to the notes on the November 10 and December 8 meetings.

<http://www.cusd200.org/235310927153611630/blank/browse.asp?A=383&BMDRN=2000&BCO B=0&C=56483>

Of particular interest in the December 8 notes is the following:

"Hubble/Central Property:

The Board discussed the importance of keeping their commitment to the community by getting the Hubble/Central property back on the tax rolls, re-developed as a gateway to downtown Wheaton, and use the proceeds of the sale to pay down any debt.

The Board decided that in order to seek out a party interested in redeveloping the site, they must get the property appraised for current value. Also, the Board decided to conduct a cost / benefit analysis of keeping the property a public use (as suggested by a City Council Member) or have the property be redeveloped.

The Board asked Superintendent Brian Harris to send a formal letter to the Mayor Mike Gresk and City Manager Don Rose explaining the District's position on the property and our intentions."

Environment & Healthcare Diane Niesman

The next Electronic Recycling date is Saturday, January 8, 2011. For details go to <http://www.wheaton.il.us/residents/garbage.aspx?id=5736>

Wheaton Residents - Recycle Your Christmas Tree

From Jan. 3-14, 2011, Veolia will recycle Christmas trees at no charge for its customers. Simply place your tree without any decorations at the curb on your garbage day. Do not place it in a bag. After this two-week collection period, trees will require one garbage sticker for disposal.

The planning for our spring program featuring the documentary TAR CREEK is moving along. A Rocha, the student chapter of an international conservation organization, from Wheaton College will be our cosponsor. The program is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 2-5 PM (tentative time). It will be held at Barrow's Auditorium in the Billy Graham Center at 500 College Avenue in Wheaton. SAVE THE DATE!

Viable Downtown Wheaton

Are you concerned about downtown Wheaton? Would you like to be more involved? Contact Missey Wilhelm.

Voter Services Missey Wilhelm

This report covers events in October, not previously reported. Many thanks to Julie Nolan, for a strong partnership and for letting me use her report as the basis for mine.

On October 4th, the Wheaton LWV co-sponsored a candidate forum with the Community High School of West Chicago, for State Assembly candidates from the 55th and 95th districts and for 28th District State Senator candidates. The Government Students and Social Studies Department (Lisa Willuweit, Mary Ellen Daneels, Barbara Laimins, and Sharon Ramey) were responsible for contacting the candidates, setting up the auditorium, signs, and refreshments (provided by the Boosters) and for clean up afterwards. They also served as timers for the event. The LWV Wheaton provided guidance through the process for the forum and provided the moderator, Lori Miller, and question sorters Denise and Diane Niesman.

The LWV participated in Voter Registration at homecoming on Friday prior to the forum and was present for the Illinois Student Voter (Mock Elections) on October 5th. Overall this was a great experience and partnership that the LWV of Wheaton should expand on in the future with other activities.

In partnership with the Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters and the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, we sponsored two candidate forums on October 20 and 21. Missey Wilhelm, president of the Wheaton league, Bill Edgar and Steve Johnson, members of the Government Affairs subcommittee of the Wheaton Chamber, and Julie Nolan of the Glen Ellyn league, organized the forums.

League members served as timers, question sorters, and general volunteers for both evenings. Chamber members provided a real time print version of the forum during the event, printed the programs and table cards, and worked on the arrangements with the Wheaton Park District for the venue, set up and sound system. Denise Niesman (LWV Wheaton) and Tina Chivardi (LWVGE) handled publicity through the newspapers, school districts, and LWV outlets (including a listing on the LWVIL website). The Chamber publicized the forums through its organization and in the business community. Ginger Wheeler, LWVGE, provided and manned a camera/computer to stream the forum live on the Internet and also posted it for later viewing. She provided a tape of the forums to Liz Corry (LWV Wheaton) for distribution to local cable TV channels. Chamber members also provided coffee and bottled water for candidates and for the audience, and served as general volunteers. Missey, Julie and the Chamber members shared responsibility for contacting candidates, arranging for LWV moderators and all other organizational matters.

Both forums were held at the Wheaton Park District Community Center, with this schedule:

Meet the Candidates 6:30 - 7 PM; Forum 7 - 9:15 PM

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 Moderator Mary Lou Lowrey LWV LaGrange IL

Attendance 104; Candidates for DuPage County Board Chair; DuPage County Board Members Districts 4 & 6; Illinois General Assembly Districts 48 & 95

Thursday, October 21, 2010 Moderator Krista Grimm LWV LaGrange, IL

Attendance 81; Candidates for DuPage County Forest Preserve Board offices of President & Board Members (Districts 4 & 6); IL General Assembly Districts 42 & 45

For future reference:

On Wednesday evening there were two people videotaping the forum. Missey asked the man taping the beginning of the forum to sign the LWVIL Broadcast Agreement Form that all of the candidates had signed. He declined to do so, could not produce ID to verify his name or the name of the video company he worked for, and would not specify which, if any candidate he was working for. He stopped taping and left the forum. A woman in the audience then started taping the latter part of the forum. She was approached by Julie after the last candidates spoke and asked to sign the Broadcast Agreement Form, which she did. Her companion indicated that they were indeed taping for a candidate but that they had done this at previous LWV forums and only used the tapes to help the candidates improve their presentations and not for any campaign purposes.

On Thursday evening Missey was asked prior to the forum if we would recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening statements. She advised the gentleman that it was not LWV practice to do so and that the content of the opening statements had already been arranged with all of the candidates. Since the League, the Chamber and the candidates were all in agreement on the format we would not change it. After checking with LWVIL, she also advised the gentleman the following day that the League does not currently have a policy regarding reciting the pledge at candidate forums. Missey confirmed that the LWV does not have a policy with respect to the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at candidate forums.

At an earlier LWV candidate forum for the IL 8th Congressional district, an audience member stood and asked the moderator to recite the pledge. When she declined to do so, the audience spontaneously stood and recited the pledge. In light of that event and the incidents at the two GE/Wheaton forums the League should review its policies and procedures regarding taping and recording forums and other candidate events, managing audience requests, and the process we use to sort and organize written questions for the moderator.

December 2010

Dear Fellow League Presidents,

It is time to start the program planning process, culminating in the adoption of program items at the 2011 LWVIL Convention. With input from local Leagues, LWVIL will have a viable and action-oriented program to move our public policy influence forward in Illinois. The enclosed packet includes:

- **State Program Planning Instructions**
- **Status of LWVIL Issues and Advocacy December 2010** – summary of recent action taken in Illinois
- **Program Planning Response Form 2011-2013–Return to LWVIL by March 7, 2010.**
- **Two Already-submitted Program Recommendations** (one from local Leagues and one from the LWVIL Issues Committee)

Action Foci and Studies adopted at the 2009 LWVIL Convention (www.lwvil.org under “Member Resources” in *Where We Stand* under “Positions in Brief”):

- **FISCAL POLICY AND TAX REFORM:** Promote efforts to address the inequities of the state fiscal system in order to provide stable, reliable and adequate revenues for public education and other social services.
- **CAMPAIGN AND ETHICS REFORM:** Promote efforts to impose contribution limits, require full, immediate disclosure of all contributions, and to provide enforcement and monitoring mechanism to assure transparency.
- **TRUE CENSUS COUNT 2010 AND REDISTRICTING REFORM:** Promote full participation of all Illinois residents in the 2010. Census in order to achieve a full count and to promote a redistricting process that is timely, orderly, transparent, and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness, contiguity, and the requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.
- **UPDATE POSITION ON RECALL AND TERM LIMITS:** These topics were controversial during discussions relating to the convening of a constitutional convention in 2008 and continue to be discussed in light of efforts in 2009 to impose term limits on legislative leadership. The current LWVIL position supports Recall only for elected judges and is found under the Constitutional Implementation and Amendments Position. LWVIL opposes Term Limits for members of the General Assembly. This position can be found under State Election Laws. This update is conditional upon League members’ willingness to serve on a committee that will review these positions and make recommendations.

If your League has a program item to promote, LWVIL will be happy to forward the information to other local League presidents. Please consult with Kim Reed, Issues and Action VP, issues@lwvil.org to discuss any program initiatives your League would like to encourage other Leagues to support.

The LWVIL Board and Issues Committee look forward to receiving your League’s input in the Program Planning Process. Please return the Program Planning Response Form by March 7, 2011.

Thank you for your continued commitment and hard work.

The program planning material will also be available on our website, www.lwvil.org, under Member Resources/Conventions/Program Planning.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marcus
President, LWVIL



**STATE PROGRAM PLANNING INSTRUCTIONS
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS
2011 – 2013**

Only with input from our members will we have a viable and exciting action-oriented program to move us forward in influencing public policy in Illinois.

Purpose of State Program Planning:

State Program planning is the main tool of local League involvement in shaping the state League's public policy program, culminating with the adoption of a 2011–2013 LWVIL program at State Convention. The planning process reflects the partnership between the state and local Leagues

Program changes can be initiated before Convention, as explained in steps numbered 1–3 on the following pages or during the State Convention, as outlined in step number 4. Through the program planning process, local Leagues begin working on or planning for potential program changes that could ultimately be enacted at Convention. It is to a League's advantage to promote an idea early in the process to generate enthusiasm and support. If there is enough interest and commitment demonstrated by the local Leagues, the LWVIL Board may recommend amending the program as suggested in the local Leagues' Program Planning Response Forms.

The program planning process is outlined in **these instructions**. Additionally, this packet includes:

- **Letter from LWVIL President Nancy Marcus**
- **Program Planning Response Form**
- ***Status of Issues and Advocacy***, which reviews activities on issues, both educational and legislative, throughout 2009-2010 and forecasts anticipated activities for the next biennium.
- **Two already-submitted Program Recommendations** (one from local Leagues and one from the LWVIL Issues Committee)

PLEASE NOTE: program planning response forms are **due in the LWVIL office by March 7, 2010.**

Other Useful Resources

- ✓ LWVIL Issues Committee and Issues & Action VP
- ✓ *Where We Stand*, 2009-2011; LWVIL Position book (available online at www.lwvil.org)
- ✓ *Impact on Issues*, 2008-2010; LWVUS position book (available online at www.lwv.org)
- ✓ *Planning Program: From Choice Through Action* (included in the LWVIL President's Notebook)
- ✓ *Dimensions of a Local League Study*, LWVIL (available online at www.lwvil.org under "Resources for League Leaders" in the President's Handbook)

Local Leagues are encouraged to consult with Issues & Action VP Kim Reed, (630-545-0662 or issues@lwwil.org) to discuss a program initiative at any time before or during convention.

THE PROGRAM PLANNING PROCESS

1: REVIEW CURRENT LWVIL POSITIONS

Existing positions outlined in *Where We Stand* provide the basis for League action, including lobbying. The first step in program planning is to review current LWVIL positions (as listed on the response form that is enclosed and explained in *Where We Stand*), making sure to consider whether:

- ⇒ the goals addressed by the position have been met
- ⇒ there is still member interest, understanding, and agreement on the item
- ⇒ the position is still relevant

2: MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON CURRENT LWVIL POSITIONS

As listed on page 1 of the program planning response form, the possible recommendations for current positions are as follows.

- 1) **RETAIN**, meaning continue to act upon the current position as is;
- 2) **RE STUDY/UPDATE**, meaning modify or change all or part of a current position; or
- 3) **DROP**, meaning eliminate a position from the League's agenda.

REGARDING THE RESTUDY OPTION, PLEASE NOTE: If a local League or Leagues wish to pursue the restudy process (No. 2 option) on any position, they must plan to inform other local leagues and to generate statewide support for a proposed change at State Convention. While the state League can help, the responsibility for restudy or updates primarily lies with the local League or Leagues. When a position is being restudied, the position cannot be used for action.

REGARDING DROPPING A POSITION, PLEASE NOTE; if a position is dropped (No. 3 option), no action or lobbying can be undertaken in that area without a new study (as discussed below).

3: MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW STUDY AND/OR A NEW ACTION FOCUS ITEM

Page 2 of the program planning response form is where local Leagues record recommendations for new studies or new action focus items.

1) NEW STUDY: Local Leagues study an issue to educate members on a public policy issue as a prelude to action. A **new study** is **ONLY** necessary if there is no League position on an issue at any level, local, state or national.

2) ACTION FOCUS: An **action focus** is a high-priority program item adopted by delegates at Convention (for example, increasing school funding). **After adoption, state and local Leagues act as partners over a two-year period to promote the goals of the "action focus."** LWVIL provides informational material and training to help local Leagues engage in effective action in their communities, while LWVIL engages in complementary activities at the state level. An action focus recommendation is appropriate if there is an existing state or national position on an issue. It can combine citizen education and advocacy.

PLEASE NOTE: *When deciding to recommend a new study or action focus a local League should be guided by the careful consideration of the resources at both the local and state levels needed to accomplish any item(s), relative to the interest and commitment of its members. A state study or action focus means on-going local League involvement and activity on the item. It is therefore particularly important for a local League to consider new items in the context of its local program and activities and its own willingness or ability to participate.*

So when evaluating a new study idea or proposed action focus, consider the following key questions:

- ⇒ Does **your League** have a strong and broad member interest in the issue?
- ⇒ Is **your League** willing and able to work on the issue?
- ⇒ Is the issue of statewide interest?
- ⇒ Will timing and political realities permit effective League action?
- ⇒ Is League involvement likely to make an impact?
- ⇒ Is there an existing state or national position that can be used as a basis for action? If yes, an action focus is needed; if no, a new study is needed

4: TAKE NOTE OF OTHER ROUTES TO ACTION

Concurrence

In addition to the program planning process, a local League or Leagues can propose the adoption or amendment of a state League position at convention via "concurrence." Concurrence is the "act of agreeing with" a position developed by (1) recommendations of a resource committee, (2) decision statements formulated by League boards, or positions reached by another League or Leagues. Concurrence is an appropriate process when the item recommendation in question is straightforward and non-controversial. Leagues that are considering promoting the adoption or amendment of a state position by concurrence should note the adoption process outlined in the LWVIL by-laws.

PLEASE NOTE local Leagues pursuing this form of member agreement must send background material, including pros and cons and a rationale, to all Leagues six weeks before convention.

Will Of Convention

At Convention, a local League may present a motion directing the state League to take legislative action on an issue related to state government or to state League program. The issue must be covered by an existing position at the state or national level. A motion may also direct the state League to request action on the national level. Generally these motions ask the state League to contact state constitutional officers or state legislators concerning a specific advocacy position. A delegate wishing to present a Will of Convention Motion must consult the LWVIL VP of Issues and Action prior to the opening of convention.

Legislative Priority

While an "**action focus**" is a program item adopted by delegates at convention, "**legislative priorities**" reflect both the interests of the League and the prevailing political climate.

Legislative priorities are approved yearly by the LWVIL Board based on recommendations forwarded by the Issues Committee. The priorities are set in November or December prior to the succeeding year's spring legislative session. Local Leagues are notified of the priorities after the state board approves them.

THE STATE PROGRAM PLANNING CALENDAR FOR 2010-2011

December - February: Local Leagues develop their program planning recommendations and develop and distribute "lobby" materials for locally proposed program items or concurrence proposals (including the restudy/update and new studies and action focus options discussed above). Again, concurrence materials must be distributed to all local Leagues six weeks prior to convention.

March 7th: **Local League Program recommendations due in the state office.** This deadline allows the Board to review the recommendations of local Leagues and potentially propose program changes based on those recommendations in April.

April 16th: The state board considers local League input and makes program recommendations, (budget and bylaws are considered at this board meeting, too).

April 20th: State board program recommendations (budget and bylaws, too) sent to local Leagues.

June 10-12: LWVIL Convention - local Leagues may wish to host a caucus to promote a program item or lobby their fellow delegates to support their favorite item!

The League of Women Voters of Illinois • 332 S. Michigan Ave. • Suite 1150 • Chicago, IL 60604

PH: 312/939-5935 • Fax 312/939-6887 • info@lwwil.org • www.lwwil.org

Proposal to Study Pension Problems In Illinois and Proposals for Pension Reform

The LWVIL Issues Committee recommends that the LWVIL study pension problems in Illinois and proposals for pension reform. Currently, the LWVIL does not have a position and cannot take action on the enormous issues facing the people of Illinois regarding pension payments.

Scope of the Issue:

There are five state pension systems –

1. Teachers (outside of Chicago Public Schools)
2. state employees
3. state legislators
4. judges, and
5. state university employees (including professors and doctors at the medical schools).

There are local government pension systems for employees, including police and firefighters, and there is the retirement system for the Chicago Public Schools.

The Issues Committee will coordinate this study: appoint a chair and create a study committee to work on this issue.

Submitted by,

The LWVIL Issues Committee
(authored by Kathy Nesburg, Issues Specialist)
December 3, 2010

Proposal for Action Focus on Natural Resources: Large-Scale Livestock Facilities Position

The League of Women Voters of Glenview (LWVG) recommends that the LWVIL maintain an Action Focus on the Natural Resources Position currently in place regarding Large-Scale Livestock Facilities.

- This position relates to "sustainable agriculture and protection of our environment, as well as human health" which has the potential for engaging the public and recruiting new members.
- Regulatory concerns raised in our Position have not yet been resolved. This is a state-wide issue involving multiple units of government.
- This is an issue which is increasing in importance with the potential growing threat of more Large-Scale Livestock Facilities trying to locate to our state. Without proper regulation there will be further negative impact.
- The way we feed our families, and the issues of water pollution, land use and effective government oversight are of general interest across Illinois.
- Concerns can be addressed effectively by League activities, including "informational and roundtable discussion on the environmental and economic impacts of increased livestock production in Illinois" and "monitoring initiatives and legislation impacting Illinois' large-scale livestock facilities."
- Action activities would be effective at the local League level as well as at the State level.

The LWVG would take a leadership roll by 1) working with other local leagues and the LWVIL to shape a plan for the Action Focus; 2) monitor regulatory and legislative initiatives impacting large-scale livestock facilities in Illinois and; 3) conduct round table discussions and informational presentations about the LWVIL position. At the 2010 national convention the LWVG, via a guidance to the board, asked LWVUS to update the natural resources and agriculture positions so that Leagues could take action to "*encourage access to plentiful and nutritious food, promote land use policies that are sustainable and environmentally sound, support the conservation of natural resources, protect all water sources, and establish appropriate national standards relating to food supplies.*" The LWVG believes that taking action on the LWVIL Large-Scale Livestock Facilities position is relevant to the stated purpose of our guidance which is allow the League to act specifically on proposed food policies.

Date: December 22, 2010
To: Members LWV of Wheaton
From: Missey Wilhelm, President
Subject: Consideration for LWVIL Program - Position Study

Background: At a recent Board of Directors meeting in a discussion related to the LWVIL program planning and whether the Wheaton LWV might have a suggestion for a state study a concern was raised about that while there are stated league positions related to fiscal policies, the focus seems to be on the revenue side only.

The LWVIL Where We Stand, pg 42, summarizes the LWVIL Government position: State Fiscal Policies as “Support for a diversified revenue system which principally relies on a combination of broad-based taxed and user fees, is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple.”

The LWVUS Impact on Issues, pg 69 has an extended state of the LWVUS policy which you can find here:
http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Training_and_Resources&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=137&ContentID=15341

An idea was formulated that this addresses only one side of sound fiscal policy and that perhaps LWVIL should consider a policy related to expenditures.

Suggested Study: LWVIL State Fiscal Policies - Expenditures

Our current State Fiscal Policies state “Support for a diversified revenue system which principally relies on a combination of broad-based taxed and user fees, is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple.”

This is only one half of a Fiscal Policy.

Fiscal Policy is two sided – revenue and expense or as accountants say, debit and credit. You cannot have sound fiscal policies and practices without addressing both sides of the equation equally. Each dollar that is unwisely managed or spent is a dollar wasted – a dollar that could have gone to our schools, social programs, highways, etc.

We propose a study to determine best practices and policies for government expenditures that should be used by the State. This will allow us to not only speak as a League regarding how revenue should be raised but to speak on how those dollars can best be used in the interests of our State. Although we currently have positions we can use to try to protect and promote some program expenditures, we have nothing that allows us to address waste or unwise management. Some examples to be looked at: double dipping of pensions and salary; policies for when should a contract go out to bid; consolidation of functions to eliminate duplication. Our State fiscal crisis is too deep to address with only one side of the fiscal equation. To take effective action, to best help our State move forward, we need the ability to address both revenue policies/proposals and expense management policies/proposals.

Study Considerations: When a League is considering an item to promote, the following questions are essential to evaluating a proposed program item:

- Does **our League** have a strong and broad member interest in the issue?
- Is **our League** willing and able to work on the issue, including being part of a statewide committee?
- Is the issue of statewide concern or interest?
- Will timing and political realities permit effective League action?
- Is League involvement likely to make an impact?

Along with a review of current LWVIL positions, you will be asked if our league is interested in making a recommendation to the LWVIL for this study.

Wheaton City Council Highlights

Meeting: Nov. 1, 2010

Environmental Improvement Commission Encourages Recycling

On behalf of the Environmental Improvement Commission, Chairman Ted Witte accepted a proclamation acknowledging Wheaton's participation in America Recycles Day on Nov. 15, making this "Wheaton Recycles Day." Approximately 92 percent of Wheaton residents have participated in the City's curbside recycling program during the past three years. The commission and the City of Wheaton encourage residents to participate in events that celebrate recycling on this day.

School Board Members Day is Nov. 15

Community Unit School District 200 School Board Members Rosemary Swanson, Joann Coghill and John Bomher accepted a proclamation from Mayor Gresk marking Nov. 15, 2010, as School Board Members Day in Wheaton. The day honors citizens who support the education of the community's children. The proclamation points to the countless hours board members donate selflessly to public service without compensation.

Council Moves Forward with Donation Drop Box Ordinance

The City Council accepted a Planning and Zoning Board report recommending a text amendment to the City's Zoning Ordinance regarding donation drop boxes. The amendment would allow these drop boxes as a permitted outdoor accessory use in certain zoning districts and establishes maximum number, size and location requirements for donation drop boxes. The Council referred the report to the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance for the Council's formal consideration.

Meeting: Nov. 15, 2010

Council Passes Donation Drop Box Ordinance

Based on recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Board, the City Council approved a text amendment to the City's Zoning Ordinance that establishes maximum dimensions and location requirements for donation drop boxes. They are permitted as outdoor accessory use in certain zoning districts.

Paramedic Contract Renewed

The City Council approved a one-year contract renewal of paramedic services and ambulance billing services from Kurtz Paramedic Inc. and Andres Medical Billing. Under the agreement, prices for these services will not increase from the current rates.

Environmental Improvement Commission Welcomes New Member

Mayor Gresk approved the appointment of Nichole Johnston to a three-year term on the Environmental Improvement Commission.

City Establishes Coyote Policy

The City Council adopted a resolution establishing the Wheaton Coyote Policy. City staff created the policy to establish a strategic plan and actions to increase residents' knowledge and understanding of how coyotes behave and options to deal with different behaviors. The plan focuses on education and sets specific courses of action to be taken given specific human/coyote interactions.

Meeting: Dec. 6, 2010

City to Replace Garage Lighting with Energy Efficient System

The City Council awarded a bid to Argon Electric Company Inc. to replace the lighting system in the Wesley Street Parking Garage, a project that is being funded entirely through a federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant the City received. The new system will significantly reduce the amount of energy used to light the garage and is estimated to reduce annual energy costs by at least \$15,700.

Residents Reappointed to Commissions

The Council approved the reappointment of Steph McGrath to a three-year term on the Historic Commission, the reappointment of Patricia Schwarze to a five-year term on the Planning & Zoning Board and Tracy Jones to a three-year term on the Wheaton Downtown Design Review Board.

Council Receives Property Tax Levy Ordinances

After reviewing the proposed tax levy ordinances at its Nov. 30 Planning Session, the City Council received the first reading of the 2010 Property Tax Levy Ordinances and ordinances related to Special Service Area levies and appropriations. The property tax levy ordinances, if passed, represent a decrease of 0.13 percent from the previous year's levy.

Meeting: Dec. 20, 2010

City Council Passes Tax Levy

The City Council approved ordinances establishing the City's tax levy for 2010. The ordinances represent a decrease of 0.13 percent from the previous year's tax levy.

Ordinance Allowing Hair Stylists to Relocate in Downtown to be Considered

The City Council directed the City Attorney to draft an ordinance for the Council's formal consideration regarding hair stylists in the downtown C-2 zoning district. In 1998, the City removed hair stylists from the permitted uses section of the C-2 Zoning District to encourage a greater diversity of businesses in the Central Business District. The proposed ordinance would allow existing hair stylist businesses to relocate within the downtown area.

Council Removes Payment to Consultant from Warrant

The Council voted 4-2 in favor of removing the payment to Market Feasibility Advisors from the City's Warrant. The City sought the services of Market Feasibility Advisors to perform a feasibility study for the renovation of the Wheaton Grand Theatre. Some Council members stated that Market Feasibility Advisors did not fulfill its obligations established in its agreement with the City, and therefore, the company should not receive this payment.

ALSO:

- Please see <http://www.wheaton.il.us/government/councilhighlights/2010/> for additional highlights or <https://dm1.wheaton.il.us/meetingview/> for minutes of the meetings or videos.
- Please see http://www.cusd200.org/board_of_education/highlights.htm for District 200 school board meeting highlights.
- Please see <http://www.cod.edu/adminstr/boardmin.htm> for the minutes of the COD Board of Trustee meetings.
- Please see <http://www.wheatonparkdistrict.com/pgs/about/bmeetings.html> for minutes of Wheaton Park District meetings

We Thank Our Local Supporters

Every fall the Wheaton LWV asks businesses and professional people in the community to help support our work. The names on these pages are those who responded to our 2010-2011 Finance Drive. When you patronize them, thank them in person for supporting the Wheaton League of Women Voters.

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RICH ARMBRUST	ARMBRUST PLUMBING & HEATING	111 E ILLINOIS ST, WHEATON, IL 60187	630-668-6273	
TIM BENSHOOF	BENSHOOF & COMPANY LANDSCAPING & SNOW PLOW	100 W ROOSEVELT RD A2-202, WHEATON 60189	630-462-6780	BENSHOOF-COMPANY@SBCGLOBAL.NET
HENRY BERTALMIO	BEST-WAY RUG & FURNITURE CLEANERS	319 W FRONT ST, WHEATON 60187	630-668-7940	BESTWAYRUG.COM
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JAMES P HOFNER, CPA	HOFNER & HOFNER LLC	855 W PRAIRIE AVE, WHEATON 60187	630-462-9700	HOFNERHOFNER.COM
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DR CONRAD W STOLL & DR CYNTHIA LOGAN	OPTOMETRISTS	214 W FRONT ST, WHEATON 60187	630-668-4144	STOLLPATROL@AOL.COM
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