



The Voter

Wheaton LWV March 2011

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Important Dates!

3/13	Daylight Savings Time
3/15	Candidate Forum
3/17	Candidate Forum
3/24	Candidate Forum (Carol Stream)
4/16	"Tar Creek"



President's Letter

Greetings! As I write this it looks like we are expecting the snowfall that will break records for February! Is it too early to think about seeds and sprouts for the gardens? Probably, but it is sure nice to look forward to that day, right?

Thank you to Jan Kay, Roberta Jacobson, Joan Fefferman, Diane Niesman, **and** Shannon Burns who, along **with** members from other local leagues, conducted formal legislative interviews in January and February for LWVIL with Congressman Peter Roskam, State Senator Carol Pankau, and State Representatives Mike Fortner and Franco Coladipietro. Also, thank you to the legislative representatives who took the time to meet with us. The interviews really are a good way to exchange views and information and will be a good reference for future action.

You can find the reports on the interviews included in this VOTER, except for Roskam which was in the January VOTER.

What's going on in the league right now?

It is time to get ready for the April elections and a chance to participate in core league work. **We will** partner with the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee for the following **events** at the Wheaton Park District Community Center, 1776 S. Blanchard Rd in Wheaton. Please note that the LWV of Glen Ellyn will include the COD Board of Trustees in a Forum on Sunday, March 20 at Glen Crest Middle School, 726 Sheehan Ave in Glen Ellyn.

MARCH 15TH CANDIDATE FORUM

- Wheaton Mayor
- Councilman at Large (2 positions)
- Park District commissioners (4 position)

MARCH 17TH CANDIDATE FORUM

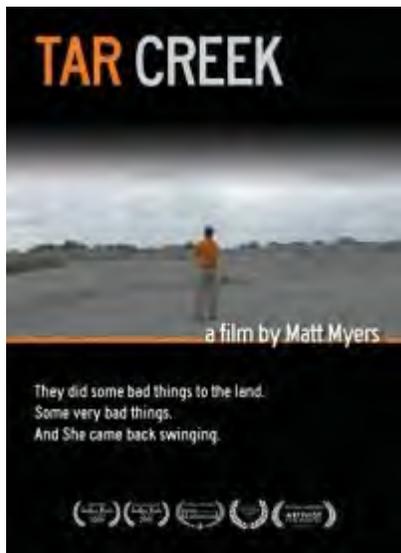
- CUSD 200 School Board (3 positions)

We will also partner with the Carol Stream Woman Club at the Carol Stream Fire Headquarters Station, 365 N. Kuhn Road, Carol Stream

MARCH 24TH CANDIDATE FORUM

- Carol Stream Mayor
- Park District Commissioner
- Village Council
- Library Board
- Fire Protection Trustee

What's coming up?



APRIL 16TH "TAR CREEK"

Please mark your calendar for this informative event presented from 2:00 to 5:00 by the Environment Committee at Barrows Auditorium in the Billy Graham Center on the Wheaton College Campus.

This presentation is co-sponsored 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
March 2011

**March 15 Candidate Forum -
Mayor, City Council, Park District**

**March 17 Candidate Forum -
CUSD 200**

**March 24 Carol Stream Candidate
Forum**

April 16 "Tar Creek"



LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

Notes from 1-31-11 meeting with 45th district Rep. Franco Coladipietro

Present from LWV of Wheaton: Roberta Jacobson, Jan Kay, Joan Fefferman, Missey Wilhelm

1. Illinois Fiscal Crisis

Rep. Coladipietro started by saying that the direction of the state should be to set priorities for money taken in from taxes. The direction he would set would be infrastructure (roads and facilitating commerce), and education, and providing a safety net for people. Cuts should be made in spending and he gave an example of a rainforest unit taught at the schools should not receive funding. Representative Coladipietro said that Springfield has not done anything to rein in government spending other than placing spending caps. "How much more can we spend?" We have been in a deficit since the Edgar years.



When asked about a progressive income tax he said that he has "not looked at progressive income tax programs". These systems of taxing are "easy to take advantage of, in terms of class warfare, as it affects everybody.

He mentioned that we should tax Internet purchases like Amazon purchases, but this must be done at the federal level. Without the tax it hurts local merchants.

He then addressed pension reform. He felt that the general assembly should have 401K plans and not a pension system. This "should not be all across the board though".

He also does not think that borrowing to fund pensions is a good idea.

He mentioned that in 1995 the state established a payment schedule to lead us into full funding and reimbursement of debts. The general assembly just got into the habit of saying "no, not this time", to participating in the program, delaying solvency.

He said that there were mistakes in funding that could be cut in order to save money. He gave an example of the state funding a teacher in the native language at the school if there were 20 children that spoke that language enrolled at the school at the same level. He claimed that the funding did not take into consideration that most of these children could now speak English and did not need the teacher to speak their original tongue. Another funding mistake is the free rides of seniors on the public transit system. This does not take into consideration income or savings and may be giving very wealthy people a free ride.

He concluded by saying that people calling into his office are very important. This part of the political process is very important and is central to his understanding the issues. He said later that if 50 people call in on an issue, then he and his staff take a careful look at the issue and really invest research into the topic so he can be better educated.

2. Redistricting

He spoke here about passing public hearings on redistricting and on openness and transparency in showing the public the software used for compilation of the redistricting information. He also liked the openness achieved through public comment sessions on the redistricting.

Asked the exact questions on redistricting, he agreed that he could support the LWV positions.

3. Abolition Of The Death Penalty

This topic was skipped due to Gov. Quinn having the bill on his desk for signing.

4. Climate Change

He was asked why he voted “No” on the Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act. This act allows for the government food facilities (such as schools) to buy 20% of its food from local (Illinois) farmers. He said that he objected to the details. The details meant that school providers claimed that during the colder months they could not procure what they needed from local farmers due to the non-growing seasons of Illinois. He gave the example of strawberries or peaches.

He was given the LWV’s policies on the large-scale livestock facilities in Illinois. A case was made that cancer and water/air pollution are at risk here. Leaking of the manure into the water supplies is one of those things that can easily be prevented but not easily cleaned up. He was encouraged to read 5 articles that were presented to him from the Internet that outlined the abuses and wide scale tragedies that were occurring on such factory farms. In some cases total communities were wiped out by the pollution (air/water/land) that occurred.

He concluded this section by saying that “90% of the work in Springfield is bipartisan and very collegial between the parties of what we do.” He said he would read the articles and educate himself more on this issue.

5. Immigration

He “does not know if we here in Illinois need the same laws as does Arizona.” State police should be able to enforce all the laws of the state including federal immigration laws. He said, “We need the federal government to do their job”. He claimed that the “federal government has to be on board so it is clear for all” what the rules and regulations are. He also felt that if the federal government was too slow for Arizona, he understood that and sided with Arizona in enacting laws that would help them with their situation, which they only knew best.

6. Criminal Justice

He said that he was always interested in learning about alternatives to incarceration such as community based service. He said that he was “always open to make the process better – people make mistakes. “ I am pro-helping and I will foster rehabilitation or shortening prison sentences for certain offenses. He said, “I do not have a knee-jerk instinct for “NO” and I am open to things.”

He concluded this session by saying that he has “been in Springfield for four years – the worst ever- and he would like to wrap it up by saying that the next session there are a few things that he would push and they are the top two or three things that are positive.”

Commenting on the current situation, he said “Politically the governor wants bonding authority, education reform, redistricting, and compensation for anyone who falls under workman’s compensation.”

Also, he mentioned that “The appellate court said that the Capital Bill is unconstitutional. Will it go to the Supreme Court? Where do you go with that? Since bonds have already been issued.”

At the end he said that “The political process by its nature is (people – elected officials) with common ideals with different roads.

Notes on 2/14/2011 Meeting With 23rd District Sen. Carole Pankau



PRESENT: Shannon Burns, Joan Fefferman, Roberta Jacobson, Jan Kay, (all LWV Wheaton), Laura Kratz (LWV Elmhurst)

Illinois Fiscal Crisis

Because Sen. Pankau has introduced SB 1212, we first talked about it. This bill requires the state to engage in zero based budgeting (ZBB); it would start at the beginning of the 2013 budget year. She said that the ZBB involved "starting with nothing and then asking what is absolutely necessary....then adding in the budget needs for necessary items only". (See Note 1)

Each year all state agencies under the jurisdiction of the Executive Ethics Commission would have to justify all of their expenses. Sen. Pankau said that we need to get back to what the state should do according to the constitution. There have been bills in the past that attempted to establish ZBB. She said that the press says that the Illinois government is too large to do ZBB.

Jan asked who determines the merit of an expense (since each budget line item is funded according to its merit). Sen. Pankau said: the appropriations committee. She was asked, how much will it cost to determine the merit of programs? Sen. Pankau insisted that there would be no cost to implementing this bill. Essentially she said that all agencies should be already reviewing their programs---it is a function they are already doing. It is just a new way to look at it.

Jan asked who appoints the Executive Ethics Commission. (Note 2) Thomas J. Homer, a former judge, and former state representative, is the Inspector General. There are 4 members from the Senate, and 4 from the House on the EEC. There are other ethics commissions; the legislature appoints one. (In the discussion, she was not accurate on the ethics commission, Hence our statement here and below).

How would you tend to the budget now? Sen. Pankau would vote no to SB3. (Note 3) The Governor says we need to increase taxes (done), and now he says I need to borrow money to pay the bills in arrears. She is in favor of cutting the state government. She says we need to start thinking like individuals, who live within their means. It is time

to restructure the government, to take a new look at it. The governor is asking for 8+ billion additional spending, she says, borrowing in order to pay those owed money by the state.

She pointed out that no rating agency lowered our interest rates, as a result of the tax increase. And she said the bond companies haven't changed our ratings. Our current interest rate is 7% on our loans (bonds) instead of 4.5%. She said "Now there is the political will to make a change. "

Sen. Pankau was asked what are your priorities.

Medicaid Reform: Medicaid takes "more dollars than elementary and secondary education combined" in Illinois. She said it is due largely to the All Kids program, which had no restrictions on it. She has bills in this year to help reform it (she proposes restrictions on this program).

Workmen's Compensation Reform: she said that Indiana has about a quarter of the cost of workmen's' comp in Illinois. She is the spokesman on the Senate Commerce committee. Iowa also pays less for Workmen's Comp. All payments are based on causality—what is the cause of the issue, and how long payments should continue.

Education Reform: Her question: Why are we spending more money to get less results? She said that tenure should be harder to get, though she did not advocate eliminating it entirely. She said it should be based on how you perform, which should be based on the children's test scores. "There should be a base salary and then bonuses applied with performance." Also, schools should be involving the parents. She believes that parents are washing their hands (of responsibility) for their children's education, just handing them over to the schools. This she seemed to feel was true for low income and immigrant families.

Joan pointed out the 'polarity of education', a tendency for the higher educated to produce children that are higher educated and the poorer educated to produce under educated children. This is a tendency that emerges when the schools are failing to educate all and it produces an underclass.

Sen. Pankau felt that immigrant parents have an advantage in that they can expect their kids to do better than they can do. (Those of us who are better off do not have this advantage).

She talked about a workforce development meeting sponsored by Manpower Inc. They did a quarterly survey on job needs, and only 2 of the top 10 required college educations. The top one was for skilled labor, like electricians or plumbers. She said that not every kid needs college, and we need to draw back from that idea.

Redistricting: she supports the principles of redistricting that LWV supports, and said she helped gather signatures. Her words were "Should there be a constitutional amendment? Yes! But not this year!" The final figures on the census will be in soon. Republicans will not be involved in the redistricting. The Democrats will do it all, and she expects it to be done by the end of April, before the budget is dealt with. Here we assume she meant the state and not the County where the republicans will draw the maps)

We asked about the proposed forest preserve bill redistricting bill that she is sponsoring and the mandate of the same districts for the DuPage County Board, and the DP Forest Preserve Commission. She said they are separate entities and if they are really to be independent, they should be able to draw their own boundaries. She said it is a power struggle between the county board chair and the forest preserve president, resulting from the County Board President's desire to maintain control over the Forest Preserve's boundaries. She was asked how this helps the voters. Her reply: the original language was put in so that people can have the choice of running for either FP or County Board. Her proposed bill would give the FP Board the right to mirror the County Board. (Her views are not necessarily accurate).

Climate Change: How do you feel about this? What can we do to mitigate problems?

We discussed factory farms, particularly hog farms. She said that 4 or 5 years ago bills passed to regulate mega-farms. She has not heard of a problem. She said it could be that small farms that are causing more of any environmental problems. Laura said it was in Jo Daviess County that there was concern for the water supply. A hog farm was built without any permits or oversight at all. Pankau said this is the first she's heard of these farm issues. We gave her three internet articles on factory farms that devastated the Illinois water supply and air in that area. She was also given a cover sheet that listed the League's position on large-scale livestock facilities. She said that she would have reading for later!

Immigration: What are your views on deputizing local police to enforce immigration laws? How would it work?

Sen. Pankau said she did a ride along for National Night out last summer. She asked the policeman if they check immigration status, and they do. They report results to INS. Their perception is that the Feds do nothing about it. She pointed out that people overstay their visas, or other permission to be here, rather than "sneaking" in over the border. She was asked if the police think that this is a problem. She said, "they feel it is an act of futility." (She was not able to elaborate on her views in this area - an opinion)

Criminal Justice: She felt that Tom Johnson who has served on the Illinois Prisoner Review Board has seen both sides of prison issues and that he would be the person to ask about efforts to reduce commitments to the prison system. He was also on the commission to rewrite the criminal code. We should find out his views on this. He was recently appointed to fill out Randy Hultgren's term for the IL 48th district senate seat.

She thought that "first time offenders are regularly given supervision. For multiple offenders we need something more. Why would they learn the 7th or 8th time?" It was pointed out that repeat offenders could wear an ankle bracelets and the expense of the incarceration could lie on the family and the community. Also the cycle of learning how to be a criminal in the penitentiary would be broken.

Jan asked "What do you think of fund sweeps?" Sen. Pankau said they are egregious abuses (of power). She mentioned the LUST fund, (leaking underground storage tanks). This fund has been broke, according to Senator Pankau, for 8 to 10 years and "people are owed millions". It cannot pay to clean up leaking tanks, as was intended. (Apparently this began with Gov. Blagojevich in 2004). The governor gets this right to

“sweep” in the budget implementation bill which is passed after the budget itself. Republicans vote against it. Senator Pankau was speaking for the Governor when she says, "IDHA (Illinois Housing Development Authority) you have done well, but now extra money is just taken by him. In some cases he raised fees - tripled the fees - in order to raise funds that could then be swept. Fund sweeps continue, "IDOT was swept - robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Laura Kratz asked Sen. Pankau if she had any particular interest or passions we had not touched on.

She said “Part of me subscribes to Pate Phillip’s maxim, we don’t need more laws.” She finds helping her constituents very important. She likes to put people in touch with a real live human being, to get a person to the right place in state government. "What we do in the district office is the most important. We help people to get to the right department or secretary. This is all that is needed. Helping real people to navigate the system to the right places."

NOTE 1

Sb1212 as of 2/9/2011, assigned to Revenue committee

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the State Budget Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Defines "zero-based budgeting" as a method of setting budgets that requires a justification of all expenditures, not only those that exceed the prior year's allocations. Thus, each budget line begins at a zero base and must be funded according to merit rather than according to the level approved for the preceding year, when circumstances were probably different. For fiscal year 2013 and thereafter, provides that the budgets submitted by the Governor and appropriations made by the General Assembly for the judicial branch and for all agencies under the jurisdiction of the Executive Ethics Commission must adhere to the principles of zero-based budgeting. Effective immediately.

NOTE 2

<http://www2.illinois.gov/eec/Pages/default.aspx>

The EEC's jurisdiction extends only to employees and officers of the executive branch of the State of Illinois. Employees of the legislative branch of the State of Illinois are under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Ethics Commission.

The EEC is a nine member commission that promotes ethics in public service. Its purpose is to help ensure that State business is conducted with fairness and integrity.

Five commissioners are appointed by the Governor and the Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller and Treasurer each appoint one commissioner. No more than five commissioners may be of the same political party.

The Commission meets at least once each month to perform its statutory duties.

The Commission's duties include: conducting administrative hearings on alleged violations of the Ethics Act, preparing public information materials to facilitate compliance with ethics laws, providing guidance to ethics officers, receiving reports of activity from Executive Inspectors General and reports of ex parte communications from ethics officers. The Commission also oversees annual ethics training for all employees of the executive branch of State Government. Under certain circumstances, the Commission may appoint a Special Executive Inspector General to investigate alleged misconduct.

Current Chair is James Gaught, the comptroller's appointee from Wilmette. He is Assoc. Dean for Administration at Loyola U, Chicago School of Law.

NOTE 3

SB 0003 assigned to Executive Committee hearings scheduled 2/15, & 16

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the State Finance Act. Creates the General Obligation Restructuring Bond Fund and the General Obligation Restructuring Bond Debt Service Fund as special funds in the State treasury. Provides that the Comptroller shall transfer into the General Obligation Restructuring Bond Debt Service Fund certain amounts to service debt due on State General Obligation Restructuring Bonds. Amends the General Obligation Bond Act. Increases total authorized amount of General Obligation Bonds. Provides that the \$8,750,000,000 of Bonds authorized by this amendatory Act shall be used to pay vouchers that are at least 60 days past due, medical expenses incurred by the State under its health plans, corporate income tax refunds, and other operating expenses of the State. Provides that the proceeds of these Bonds shall be deposited in the General Obligation Restructuring Bond Fund. Provides for the conditions for issuance and sale of State General Obligation Restructuring Bonds. Makes other changes. Effective immediately.

Notes on 2/4/2011 Meeting With 95th District Rep. Mike Fortner

League Interview Contact: Missey Wilhelm, Diane Niesman, Shannon Burns

Your legislator's view on:

1. Illinois Fiscal Crisis:

Mike returned 10% of his budget back to the State, supported cuts in per diem, salaries and the law which passed that says salaries which are frozen cannot be recovered.

Capital Funding (infrastructure issues such as schools, roads, etc) with a solid plan B in place in case focusing on the infrastructure doesn't work. One Plan B suggested is a revision of the gas tax. (Il is one of only two states



currently that has a gas and gallon tax that does not go to the roads.)

Other suggestions include sales tax on internet sales, and agreements that would allow for states to collect sales tax for each other. Other solutions he would support:

- Pull back Medicaid budget;
- Make sure every new budget item is sustainable;
- Continued review of pensions; mentioned copying state university system moving from defined contribution to self managed

He does not support cutting social services and commented that “we” don’t want to prioritize (in general). He discussed the “hold harmless” mentality that has contributed to the budget problem.

2. **Redistricting:** clearly Mike supports the league principles of redistricting

We asked about the DuPage County Redistricting process which he is not really happy with. MF noted that the County went from 5 to 6 districts after the 1990 census; he does not expect such a change after the 2010 census. He does not believe it makes sense to draw maps that include/exclude certain addresses or people, although he acknowledged that this does happen. His suggestions for DPCO include first recognizing the changing demographics and then making sure the process allows for open analysis of special interests.

MF noted that there are no requirements for equality in County Districts; it is possible to draw straight district lines and/or use geographical boundaries (such as RT 88 or a RR track) as boundaries. He believes that Census block groups (about 1000 people) should be used to draw district maps, noted that Congressional Districts are the only ones that need a precise number of people per district.

MF favors: Avoiding split municipalities, the possibility of voting to redraw district maps in five years (rather than wait for the next census), and making sure that special interest groups and minorities have district maps drawn so that they can elect officials that represent them (i.e.: fair representation via the voting rights act).

As for VRA, there is a redistricting bill on Governor’s desk that Mike feels is friendlier to African-Americans than Hispanics. It is not so much about electing minorities to the legislative bodies, but creating a proportional number of minority districts, so minorities have the ability to elect candidates of their choice. For example, if population is 17% Hispanic, approximately 17% of districts should have Hispanic majority. Work on majority-minority ratios.

There are both geographic and political measures of fairness. Under geographic measures are included population, continuity, completeness, lack of fragmentation (no piece should be <1000 people with a 0.5% deviation). Under political measures is

competitiveness. **Swing districts should not be judged by the fairness measures. And, the VRA trumps all measures of fairness.**

Mike will be introducing a Constitutional Amendment regarding Redistricting week of 2/7/11, before 2010 Census results for Illinois are released.

3. Death Penalty Abolition:

Mike voted to not support abolition of the Death Penalty. He feels that there must be some punishment for the worst of the worst crimes.

4. Climate Change:

MF CO-sponsored the Clean Car Act and co-sponsored the “solar trilogy act”. Personally, he believes that “climate change” is a buzz word but that “carbon reduction” is a more compelling term. 15% of all carbon in the atmosphere is human produced and this has a huge negative impact even if global warming isn’t true.

5. Immigration:

Mike feels that local authorities must be trained to enforce federal laws; can’t enforce without training; local government should look into this; immigration issues are a different set of laws (noted that aliens are not criminals; they are just in violation of immigration laws)

6. Criminal Justice:

He noted that we must not forget that the issue is one of justice: our constitutional rights include life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. People who break the law forfeit their right to liberty. He noted that mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines create problems on both sides of the issue.

Mike could support community based drug courts, feels rehabilitation in prison is unsuccessful, and believes sentencing should be on a sliding scale to fit the crime, removing happiness (fine) liberty (incarceration) and finally, life. He believes mandatory sentencing takes “justice” out of the hands of judges. Judges should have judicial discretion, and they should not be elected, because elected judges are not vetted properly.

(Also seemed to think sentencing for crimes against children should not necessarily be harsher than sentencing for same crime against adults)

WORKGROUPS AND OTHERS

MONTHLY SYNOPSIS

Education Joan Fefferman

Thursday Feb. 17 2011 our unit meeting spotlighted education.

Joan Fefferman told us about the LWVUS study on the federal role in pre-K through grade 12 public education. It is to be limited to issues of equity, funding and standards/assessment. The committee will begin with an overview of the history of the federal role and where it is today. They will then focus on the components of the Elementary and Secondary Education act (ESEA) which speak to the equity issues. Finally, the committee will address the Common Core Standards and the subsequent assessment issues. In the spring of 2011, information will be provided to local and state Leagues. In the fall of 2011, Leagues may participate in the study of the Role of Federal Government in Public Education by scheduling meetings to educate members and communities about the issues and to come to consensus.

Joan introduced Dr. Brian Harris, the Superintendent of District 200, and Dr. Margo Sorrick, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services (curriculum). Dr. Sorrick is retiring as of June 30, 2011. She presented details on the effects of No Child Left Behind act (NCLB) on District 200. She contrasted it with the Blueprint for education reform or ESEA Reauthorization. There are many contrasts between them. The changes should allow for a fairer assessment of student and district progress, especially by using multiple assessments to define success or failure. NCLB ignored many factors, in its focus on one test session, had a narrow vision of education, and no emphasis on equitable funding. Blueprint focuses on improving performance for all groups of students, on equity, and on standards based reform and accountability. It does that in part by allowing multiple data points (assessments). It will involve the teaching profession in the changes. It will fund development of measurement systems around conditions for learning, encourage funding equity, and provide funding for comprehensive services so that students are able to focus on learning. .

Dr. Harris spoke of preparing our children for college and career readiness. He said that the keys to success are the same whether for kindergarten or grade 12. Students should be able to demonstrate academic proficiency, think critically, and problem solve. The criteria for judging achievement will change from primary through secondary grades, but the children should be able to read, be proficient in algebraic work, be proficient in oral and written communication, be able to analyze and synthesize, and be able to work independently or collaboratively.

There are significant challenges in predicting what money will come from the state of Illinois. We have not received \$7.5 million owed to us, at this point. We probably will need a tax anticipation warrant to make payroll in May. Over 80% of our funds are from local property tax, and most of the rest is from the state, with a small percentage from the federal government.

A number of thought provoking questions followed the talks. They were centered on debate skills being taught in the schools, charter schools, availability of counseling, and the effect of the governor's proposed district consolidation changes on our district

(probably none). The tentative date to open bids for the old Hubble property is April 14th. It was not in the school district's interest to subdivide the property.

In commenting on how the district will cut \$1 million this year, Dr. Harris noted that 27 teachers will retire, and he will eliminate 1 assistant superintendent position. There could be changes in the cleaning service contract or other areas. The district has seen an increase in students from private school students entering district schools. Our curriculum is in good shape, though some changes may be made to come into line with common standards.

NOTE: All CUSD200 Board Meeting Highlights are at the following link. The February 9 notes include the superintendent's report, and 3 additional documents: hiring announcements, the 2010 Illinois Honor Roll of academic excellence, and a Disposition of Hubble Property slide presentation.

<http://www.cusd200.org/23531092715369987/blank/browse.asp?A=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&C=56483>

Environment & Healthcare

Diane Niesman

ENVIRONMENT:

Electronics Recycling (including household batteries) will be 9:00 AM to noon on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at Public Works Facility on Liberty Drive.

Even though this story is about Wheaton residents, there is nothing preventing residents of other Illinois cities, towns and villages from using the CUB Energy Saver. The story is at <http://www.wheaton.il.us/news/pressreleases/detail.aspx?id=6200>. It details how Wheaton Residents trimmed electric bills by thousands of dollars, using the CUB Energy Saver Program.

CUB Energy Saver is another way residents can help [Turn Wheaton Green](#), a campaign the City launched in 2008 encouraging residents and businesses to make environmentally friendly choices. To learn more or enroll in the CUB Energy Saver program, visit www.CUBEnergySaver.com.

Be sure to pencil in the TAR CREEK Program for Saturday, April 16, 2011, from 2:00-5:00 PM. This will be the only program in April. There IS NO UNIT MEETING on Thursday, April 21st.

HEALTHCARE:

Janet Craft, LWV IL Health Care Issues Specialist, has kindly provided a summary of the Workshop-Health Care Reform and Its Impact on Illinois conducted at the LWVIL Issues Briefing on 02/05/11. The presenter was Julie Hamos, Director of Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services, and a former Illinois state representative.

Insurance Reform

While some consumer protection provisions began in 2010, most will not occur until 2014. Health Benefit Exchanges, organized at the state level, are key elements to full implementation. Ms. Hamos, a member of the Governor's Health Reform Implementation Council, referenced their report prepared after statewide hearings: <http://www2.illinois.gov/healthcarereform/Documents/IL-HRIC%20Report.pdf>

See also LWVIL testimony at http://www.lwvil.org/healthcare_testimony0910.pdf.

Service Delivery Reform

With Medicaid in Illinois \$14 billion, a quarter of the budget, Ms. Hamos emphasized the urgency to "transform" the system from being a bill payer to health care, keeping people healthy. Challenges include tighter control on eligibility, expanding provider pool by use of advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, continuity of care, measured outcomes, and cost controls. Also, the state is the provider of last resort for undocumented persons.

Strategies include streamlined processes, medical homes, new models of care, capitated payment, and home and community based services. The Affordable Care Act provides for electronic health records, which will necessitate replacing the 30 year old state IT system.

Health News

If you are interested in health news, especially the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, I recommend signing up for Daily Health Reports from Kaiser Health News. The emails are very comprehensive: <http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Email-Subscriptions.aspx>

Viable Downtown Wheaton

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

League of Voters at Wheaton North Jan Kay, LWV liaison

Four members of the League of Voters Club at Wheaton North High School were guests of the Wheaton League of Women Voters for the LWVIL Issues Briefing in February in Chicago. The 4 girls who attended were prepared to hear and make sense of the presentations on the budget confronting the State of Illinois, given their good preparedness through Social Studies classes and their own alertness of public policy issues. Following the presentation, Arin, Marie, Susan and Kelsey came up with the idea for a forum sponsored by LOV for the community and their fellow schoolmates at which



Jan Kay, Marie Fefferman, Kelsey Greenasel, Susan Bywaters, Arin Butzon

a similar presentation would be given in order for more in our community to be educated and better informed regarding the fiscal issues we all are

facing in Illinois. They brought the idea to the other members of LOV and will be deciding if this is a possibility this spring.

Three of the members attended the Health care workshop in the afternoon conducted by Julie Hamos, a former State Representative and now head of the Dept. for Family and Health in Springfield. One member attended the Pension Workshop. Each of them had very positive comments regarding all the information they gleaned in the Workshops; they were able to ask questions in the question and answer period of the Workshops.

During lunch and break times during the day LWV members from many Units came to the LOV students to find out about their organization and asked questions as to how the group was begun. In addition the students were recognized during the plenary session in the morning. Good job, League of Voters!

Wheaton City Council Highlights Meeting: Feb. 7, 2011

Graffiti Section of City Code Amended

The Wheaton City Council voted 6-1 in favor of an ordinance that amends the City Code in regard to graffiti. The changes reduce the number of days a property owner has to remove graffiti from 30 to 10 and increase the minimum fine for violating this section of the City Code from \$50 to \$200. If a property is vandalized, Wheaton's Public Works Department can provide information on solvents and the proper methods to remove graffiti.

Council Receives Ordinance for Consideration

The Council received a first reading of an ordinance that would allow full-service salons and spa businesses to sell beer and wine for consumption only on the specified premises. The Liquor Control Commission recommended the City Council approve adding this classification to the Wheaton Liquor Control Ordinance.

Residents Appointed to Boards and Commissions

The Council approved the appointment of Nancy Harding and the reappointment of Charles Meek to three-year terms on the Housing Commission. It also approved a three-year reappointment of Edward Dulaney to the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners.

Meeting: Feb. 22, 2011

New City Clerk Appointed

The City Council voted to appoint Sharon Barrett-Hagen Wheaton City Clerk upon the retirement of Emily Consolazio from the position. Barrett-Hagen's initial term will be through May 2, 2011, or until the Mayor and City Council members are sworn in following the April 5, 2011 municipal election. She will be eligible for reappointment for a four-year period coinciding with the term of the Mayor.

Engineering Services Addressing Sewer System Approved

The Council unanimously approved an agreement with RJN Group Inc. for sewer engineering services as part of the Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation Program. The City Council discussed the proposed services at its Feb. 14, 2011 Planning Session. The work will help identify and remedy deficiencies in a portion of the City's sewer system that is known to have flooding issues, and it can serve as a model for how other portions of the sewer system can be addressed.

Agreement with Downtown Wheaton Association Adopted

The City Council voted in favor of an agreement in which the Downtown Wheaton Association provides management, maintenance and promotion services for Special Service Area #6.

Councilman Resigns from Position



Councilman Levine informed the Council of his decision to resign from his Council seat representing the South District effective Feb. 22, 2011. City Council members expressed their appreciation for Levine's six years of service as a City Council member and presented him with a plaque of appreciation.

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	
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HENRY BERTALMIO	BEST-WAY RUG & FURNITURE CLEANERS	319 W FRONT ST, WHEATON 60187	630-668-7940	BESTWAYRUG.COM
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