



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE PALATINE AREA

THE VOTER

(Serving Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Palatine, Rolling Meadows & Schaumburg)

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November 2009

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Marilyn Morel

Dear Leaguers,

Before we get caught up in the coming holiday season, I would like to give you some information about LWVPA events – past and future. We accomplished quite a bit at the member meeting on October 21st. The report of that meeting is included in the article below. Several of the positions need to be amended to include all of our membership area. It would only take a few phone calls or even a little bit of Internet research to prepare those amended positions for a vote at the annual meeting. If anyone is interested in completing that research, please give me a call (847-885-4412) or email me (mfmorel@comcast.net). Special thanks go out to Rosemary Shellander, Helen Pawasarat, and Marg Duer for their diligent efforts in setting up that meeting.

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LWV PALATINE AREA CALENDAR

Sat. Nov 14	Voter Registration Palatine Library 10-2 Voter Registration Training 10-noon Palatine Township Center
Fri. Dec 4	Holiday Cordial <i>See page 5</i>
Sat. Dec 12	Voter Registration Palatine Library 10-2 RM Library 10-2 Schaumburg Library 10-2
Thur. Nov 19	U.S. Census Bureau Meeting 7:30 p.m. AH (see page 3)

PLEASE VISIT LWVIL WEBSITE
LOCAL LEAGUE EVENTS:
[http://www.lwvil.org/
League_events/](http://www.lwvil.org/League_events/)

Voter Registration Training
will take place Saturday, November
14, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at
Palatine Township, 721 S. Quentin.
If you want to register voters, be
trained—it's an education in itself!

REGISTERING VOTERS FOR FEBRUARY PRIMARY

The League will be registering voters
at local libraries this fall. We have
the following dates:

- Palatine Library**
700 N. North Court:
- November 14th 10:00-2:00
 - December 12th 10:00 -2:00
- Rolling Meadows Library**
3110 Martin Lane
- December 12th 10:00 to 2:00
- Schaumburg Library**
130 Roselle Road
- December 12th 10:00 to 2:00

(Continued on page 3)

Summary of Membership Meeting, LWVPA Local Positions

The purpose of the LWVPA membership meeting October 21st was to review our local positions as written in our 1991 **Where We Stand**. These positions, discussed as required at our annual meeting in June, 2009, were not readopted, but were tabled with the intent to review them more closely at a later date. With that goal in mind, we discussed each of our 8 positions in detail.

In 1991, the area LWVPA serves was expanded to incorporate Inverness, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg, and Hoffman Estates. Each of the positions needs to be expanded to the larger service area; therefore, we examined the scope of each position and made suggestions for future action. In brief, our recommendations follow, with the understanding that no action can be taken until our annual meeting in May:

(Continued on page 4)



BOARD		
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Vice Pres. & Secretary		
Marg Duer	358-1649	reduer@aol.com
Membership		
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Voter Editor/Webmaster Treasurer		
Eileen Schutte	776-7185	eschutte3@comcast.net
Programs Committee		
Rosemary Shellander	259-0566	
Helen Pawasarat	397-0126	heropaw@msn.com
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Sue Spengler	359-1736	spengler41@comcast.net
Renée Horlock	342-8408	MsLock@sbcglobal.net
AT LARGE		
Kathy Callahan	382-6205	kathycallahan@comcast.net
Renee Gladstone	991-1863	mrsviolin@aol.com

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES ARE OUT!
IF YOU DID NOT GET YOURS AT THE ANNUAL DINNER, PLEASE GET THEM AT AN UPCOMING PROGRAM OR ASK ANOTHER MEMBER TO PICK YOURS UP!

◆ Due to mailing costs, we will not be mailing them out.

NEWS FROM COOK COUNTY LWV

Tour of Cook County Medical Examiner's Office.

On September 30 and October 13, the LWVCC sponsored tours of the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, informally, "the County Morgue." On the West Side, near Stroger Hospital, the Office provides autopsies for deceased individuals when the cause of death is unknown. The staff includes 11 doctors and 21 investigators. The tour groups observed autopsies in progress and saw the storage room that can store up to 400 bodies. They also learned about the process involved in investigating medical examiner cases and saw the extensive records that are kept on deaths that occur in Cook County. The group was favorably impressed with the efficiency and cleanliness of the facility, the sensitivity and respect of staff for the bodies and their concern for families who come to claim them. This tour was one of a series organized by the Cook County LWV to provide opportunities for Cook County residents (tax payers) to learn more about the services provided by Cook County government.

Lobbying on County Issues:

Cook County Board – Veto Override: During the October Veto Session, the Legislature in Springfield approved a measure to change the Commissioners' required vote to override a veto by the Board President from 4/5, or 14 votes, to 3/5, eleven votes. This measure, known both as HB 4625 and SB 1868, attracted wide interest because of the Commissioners' efforts to roll back all or half of the Cook County sales tax increase of the past year. League President Cynthia Schilsky wrote to key Chicago newspaper editors and House Speaker Madigan supporting the change, Board members contacted their Representatives, and a broadcast was sent to League members throughout the state urging them to contact their elected representatives. Changing the veto override vote to 3/5 puts the Cook County Board more in line with veto override requirements in other political units.

(Continued on page 4)

Treasurer's Report

Regular Account Balance	\$1,553.28
Bequest Account	\$1,213.84
Educational Fund	\$669.45
CD Acct.	\$4561.05

***Respectfully submitted by Eileen Schutte.**

(continued from page 1) president's letter

Our Fourth Annual Honoring Women in the Military Luncheon was held on Saturday, November 7th. We heard some inspiring stories from women who served in World War II and Vietnam. Lynn Rymarz was instrumental in obtaining speakers and the venue. Marg Duer did the program. Helen Pawasarat and Rosemary Shellander oversaw the event. On behalf of the League, I thank them for all the effort they put in to make this a worthwhile event.

Please see Sue Spengler's article on voter registration opportunities. We will be holding drives on both November 14th and December 12th at local libraries.

Our own bow to the season will be the Holiday Cordial. It's on Friday, December 4th, 7 pm at the home of Kathy Callahan. Invitations with directions will be sent out soon.

On January 16th, we will hold a candidates' forum at the Palatine Village Hall. Participants will be vying for the Republican nomination for state representative from the 54th District on the February 2nd primary ballot.

In January we will have another all-member meeting to discuss any further action on the positions. Hopefully, we will be at the Palatine Village Hall again; date and time need to be determined.

LWVIL has announced that the annual Issues Briefing will be on Saturday, February 6, 2010, at the University Center in Chicago. Many of us have attended the briefing in the past and found it to be extremely informative. LWVIL will send out registration information to all members, and I will send follow-up emails as well. This past year, we had 7 LWVPA members attending.

Obviously, the LWVPA continues to sponsor events in keeping with our mission to educate and inform. We do know how to socialize as well. Hope to see many of you soon. If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at 847-885-4412 or e-mail at mfmores@comcast.net

Your president,
Marilyn Morel

US Census Bureau Presents at Arlington Heights LWV Event

LWV of Arlington Heights Area has invited Lee Habich, Partnership Specialist from the US Census Bureau to speak **Thursday, November 19**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlington Heights Historical Society, 110 W. Fremont (west of the AH Library). Mr. Habich will define the Census and its impact on: **our taxes, our political representation, federal funding for public services, city and school planning, education, and commercial endeavors.**

(Continued from page 1) Voter Registration

At this point we are needing more volunteers in order to have two registrars at each event. Having two is always preferable.

Please contact me if you are able to fill in any of the two hour time slots, 10:00 to 12:00 or 12:00 to 2:00. This primary election is coming very soon, February 2nd. The lists of Cook County candidates are posted at voterinfonet.com and state candidates at www.illinois.gov.

Also, if you haven't received your new manual, let me or Renee Horlock know. This manual is professionally bound and organized more effectively than the previous manual. One major change to note is that all registration forms must be filled out in UPPER CASE letters.

**Thanks for volunteering to help
MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!**

If you need training as a registrar, it is offered on Saturday, November 14, at 10:00 a.m. at the Palatine Township Office, 721 S. Quentin.

Contact me for more information about becoming a voter registrar.

**Susan Spengler, Voters' Service
(847-359-1736) spengler41@comcast.net.**

(continued from page 1) **LWVPA Positions**

We concluded that our positions relating to **School District 15-Finance, Day Care, and Library District** should be dropped. The focus of these studies was on very specific issues, none of which is relevant today. Our goals were accomplished or became obsolete. These positions no longer serve a purpose.

Our positions on **Senior Citizens, Land Use, Social Service Needs, and Housing** should be expanded. They remain timely and with purpose, but their scope, by virtue of the wording, is limiting. For example, **Senior Citizens** refer to those in Palatine Township, **Land Use** refers to a master plan in the Palatine area, **Social Services** and Housing within Palatine Township. Over the years our League has grown to currently include 5 communities and 2 townships. As our positions are now stated, we could not act on these issues in our other communities. We need to broaden our definitions to incorporate all the areas served by the League of Women Voters of Palatine Area.

In our lengthy discussions regarding these positions, it became quite clear to us that we need to keep the future in mind when we make policy. We must expand the intent of our goals or else they will become obsolete too soon. It was mentioned that the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights were not filled with minute details, which is why they have survived the test of time.

We believe that to make simple modifications to these 4 positions will not in any way compromise their intent. It will be recommended that they be kept but expanded which will require some updated fact finding.

Our position on **Palatine District Trustees** is a specific and separate issue. The nature of the studies leading up to this position is, of course, limited to the Village of Palatine. However, it was (and still is) such a complicated and potentially controversial position that it is felt that it continues to be very relevant. Discussion included the possibility of another study and there is current interest to move toward future action. It will therefore be recommended that this position be retained and updated.

Submitted by Helen Pawasarat

(Continued from page 2) **Cook County**

Video Gaming: Also in October, the LWVCC testified before the Cook County Board of Commissioners in support of a measure to prohibit Video Gaming in unincorporated areas of Cook County. This measure was approved by the Cook County Board. The LWVCC testimony was based on an LWVIL position that opposes the use of gambling to provide needed revenues because of the generally regressive nature of gambling activities. Since the Illinois State Legislature acted quickly without opportunity for public input on this issue and has left the task of seeking public input to local governmental entities., many municipalities throughout the state have also held hearings and also voted to prohibit the introduction of Video Gaming.

Opportunities for County League Members:

Cook County LWV continues an active campaign to observe County governmental meetings and provide reports to County citizens. Observers regularly cover the meetings of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, the Cook County Health and Hospital Systems Board and the Forest Preserve District Board. During late October and early November departmental and public hearings on the proposed Budget for 2010 are being held, which LWVCC is also observing. Observers are welcome at all meetings and if you would like to become an official LWVCC Observer email us at cook@lwvil.org

COOK COUNTY INTEREST GROUPS

Juvenile Justice: This group is investigating a number of issues related to the Juvenile Justice system. This group will have its next meeting on Saturday December 5, at 1:00 pm, at the League Office at 332 South Michigan Avenue.

Cook County Structure and Budget: Next meeting is Thursday, November 12 at 10:30 am, at Cosi on the corner of Franklin and Washington Streets.

Cook County Health and Hospitals System: This group will be starting early in 2010 and will begin by reviewing the proposed CCHHS Strategic Plan. If you are interested in joining this group please email us at cook@lwvil.org

If you want to know more about any of these activities or the Budget discussions: read the Observer Blog at the League web site, <http://cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org> .



LWVPA HOLIDAY CORDIAL

**Friday, December 4
7:00 p.m.**

**At the home of
Kathy Callahan
1036 Ridgeview Drive
Inverness, IL 60010**

**Please contact Kathy at
847-382-6205 or
kathycallahan@comcast.net
to RSVP**

Watch for an invitation in the mail.

Voter Service Thanks and Upcoming Dates

A big thank you in advance to the League members who have volunteered and who will volunteer to register voters at the area libraries November 14th and December 12th. I hope many of our deputy registrars will volunteer for a couple hours on one or both of those days.

Please bring your registrar number and manual. We have received new manuals. Please contact me to get your new copy.

The last day to register for the February 2nd election is January 5th. Early voting begins January 11th and ends January 28th. To learn more about the election go to www.voterinfonet.com.

Also, to prepare for the February 2nd election, we have scheduled Palatine Village Hall on Saturday, January 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. for a Candidates' Forum. More information to come as candidates file to run for office.

Submitted by Sue Spengler, Voter Service

The League of Women Voters of Palatine THANKS all of our sponsors for their continued support! Please support our sponsors.

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sponsors for their continued support! Please support our sponsors.**

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