

INSIDE:

**Mental Illness—a Local Issue
Page 3**

**Fair Map Amendment
Page 4**

**Illinois Fiscal Crisis
Page 5**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Marilyn Morel

Dear Leaguers,

The sunshine is wonderful, but I do fear that we will be paying for this “lamb-like” weather so early in March.

The candidates’ forum on January 16th went very well. A big thank you to all who helped: Renee Gladstone, Nancy Heggem, Renee Horlock, Betty Hull, Norma Nikolai, Helen Pawasarat, Eileen Schutte, and Rosemary Shellander. Special thanks go to Sue Spengler, Voter Service, and Marg Duer, who smoothed out the unexpected glitches.

On February 6th, several members attended the annual LWVIL Issues Briefing. Reports on the major issues discussed are included in this Voter.

The all member meeting on February 25th was very instructive. Committees had been formed or individuals had volunteered to gather information in order to make our positions more relevant to our membership area. Reports were given detailing the
(continued on page 3)

LWV PALATINE AREA CALENDAR

Thurs.
March
25

**LWVPA Membership
Meeting
Consensus –local issues**
See page 3

April 1

**Deadline for Petitions
For Fair Map
Amendment**
See page 4

LOCAL POSITIONS—UPDATED WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

Senior Citizens

There are two Senior Centers n Schaumburg Township. No low income housing for seniors is promoted.

Palatine Township Senior Center is run by a Senior Citizens Council and offers services both at the Township Senior Center and at the Palatine Opportunity Center for English and non-English speaking seniors.

Continue supporting affordable housing, transportation, including PACE busses and subsidized taxis are recommended.

Land Use

Preservation of open space and wetlands and. downtown Palatine are on-going. A community survey is accessible on line for resident input to updating the Palatine Comprehensive plan.

State LWV position favors regional planning which is what NWMC and BACOG do .

League observation, monitoring and involvement is recommended.

Housing

Identified areas include low and moderate housing, senior housing, emergency housing and the value of shared housing on a regional basis.

Ultimately, many of the needs identified in the 1980’s have been met in most area communities and continued monitoring is recommended.

Village Districts

The LWVPA position is to continue to monitor trustee accountability, citizen involvement, and determination of district boundaries. The 2010 Census will determine the need to redistrict political boundaries. The district system has been in effect for 24 years, and has been on the ballot 4 times. This issue will come before the LWVPA membership for consideration and consensus at the March 25th membership meeting.

Social Services

A report on Social Services in LWVPA will be presented in March.

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

BOARD		
President		
Marilyn Morel	885-4412	mfmorel@comcast.net
Vice Pres. & Secretary		
Marg Duer	358-1649	reduer@aol.com
Membership		
Marilyn Morel	885-4412	mfmorel@comcast.net
Voter Editor/Webmaster Treasurer		
Eileen Schutte	776-7185	eschutte3@comcast.net
Programs Committee		
Rosemary Shellander	259-0566	
Helen Pawasarat	397-0126	heropaw@msn.com
Voter Service Committee		
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.

January 16th Forum —Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped to make the January 16th Forum successful. **Renee Gladstone** and **Marg Duer** made flyers. **Marg** also generated the forum program. She also gained permission from David Orr allowing us to legally hold the forum across the hall from Early Voting and Village approval for posting candidate signs outside during the forum.

Others who made great contributions to the event were our timers, **Rosemary Shellander** and **Betty Hull**, two who are very experienced and serious about their work. Helping with the greeting of candidates and the submission of questions was our president, **Marilyn Morel**. **Eileen Schutte** and **Helen Pawasarat**, and **Renee Gladstone** carefully sorted and consolidated questions. It should be noted that Helen also made sure that the venue was suitable and coordinated the services of Ann Freda, the video recorder.

Renee Horlock and **Norma Nikolai** helped with distributing programs and question cards; **Norma** also enforced the candidate forum rule that no signs or placards be used.

It is with much gratitude that I thank all who played a role in making the forum successful. When over fifty people showed up for the event and when many people later reported that they saw the forum on cable, we come to realize the importance of our service to the community.

Directory corrections

Norma Nikolai's e-mail is ncandn@comcast.net

Rosemary Shellander's address is
1449 Lake Louise Drive
Palatine, IL 60074 (not 60067)

Treasurer's Report

Regular Account Balance	\$1,165.38
Bequest Account	\$1,214.23
Educational Fund	\$669.45
CD Acct.	\$4561.05

***Respectfully submitted by Eileen Schutte.**

(continued from page 1) president's letter

research. The positions with any rewording will be discussed at the all member meeting on March 25. The positions need to be published one month before our annual meeting which will be held in May.

Your LWVPA board is heading into a dire situation. Our current treasurer/Webmaster, Eileen Schutte, is moving at the end of March. She has graciously offered to prepare the budget for the next fiscal year. Ideally, her position should be filled even before the annual meeting. In addition, Marg Duer has been serving as Vice-President, Secretary, and Voter Editor. Marg has agreed to continue serving as Secretary and Voter Editor. It would be helpful to have someone fill the Vice-President position in order to have a more complete board. Please contact me if you can help out in either of these positions if only for a year. My home phone is 847-885-4412, and email is mfmorel@comcast.net.

Long time member and LWVPA board stalwart Rosemary Shellander is recovering from heart surgery and multiple complications. Cards may be sent to her at 1449 Lake Louise Drive, Palatine 60074. Your president,
Marilyn Morel

**March 25th
Membership Meeting
7:00 p.m. Palatine Village Hall
Room C**

**This is a very important meeting
determining our positions for 2010
and beyond.**

**It will establish how effective
LWVPA can be in the five
communities we serve.**

**Please make every effort to attend.
Your opinions are essential.**

Mental Health—a Local Issue

Article submitted by Renee Gladstone

There is a project moving through the housing process in Arlington Heights called Boeger Place Apartments, a proposed 30 unit permanent supportive apartment building for non-violent individuals with mental illness. Boeger Drive is a short street located 1 block south of Dundee, between old Arlington Heights Rd. and Arlington Heights Rd. The property is currently undeveloped, and the building would be new construction. Here is a brief description of the genesis of the project, and a few details.

Because of the severe shortage of living units for the mentally ill in the Northwest suburbs, a local group of families gathered around a kitchen table to try to solve the problem. In 2008 they became a formal organization called the North/Northwest Suburban Task Force on Supportive Housing for Individuals with Mental Illness (Task Force) and began to take action, becoming partners with a developer and a mental health provider, gathering 60 letters of support from the community, and lining up an advisory board of local professionals and present and former elected local officials.

. This site was selected for a number of reasons, including the good location in a light industrial area close to public transportation and retail within walking distance. In addition, Arlington Heights' Consolidated Housing Plan calls for the creation of housing for people with disabilities, including mental illness. In a timely coincidence, the recently released Governor's Task Force Report on Nursing Home Safety contains strong language that housing the mentally ill in nursing homes is bad for the elderly, bad for the mentally ill, and very expensive. The report recommends permanent supportive housing options exactly like this one instead. The cost to taxpayers for people in permanent supportive housing is about 1/2 of nursing homes.

Potential residents would be screened through Thresholds, a Chicago based, nationally recognized, experienced provider of housing and psychiatric rehabilitation services for the mentally ill. No one with a history of violence would be approved, nor would anyone who needs full time supervision. Numerous studies show that people who have stable housing recover well from their illnesses and return to productive life.

Continued on page 4

*(continued from page 3)***Mental Health—a Local Issue****Frequently asked questions:**

mental illness: Bi-polar disorder, clinical depression, schizophrenia

permanent : not transitional for a defined limited time after which you must move out

supportive: mental health professionals on staff at the building from 9-5 weekdays and on call 24 hours.

apartments: not a group home, but independent living apartments with tenants signing their own leases

units: 14 efficiency apartments, 16 1 or 2 bedroom reserved for couples, and parents with children (most commonly single women)

cost to Arlington Heights: \$0

funding sources: HUD (Federal), Illinois Housing Development Administration (State), private donations

For more information, please contact Renee Gladstone.

**The Fair Map Amendment—
The Petition Push**

What issue puts the Better Government Association, the League of Women Voters, the Farm Bureau, Common Cause and the Illinois Chamber of Commerce on the same side?

Redistricting for the legislative and Senate districts.

Redrawing districts happens every 10 years after the census, and everyone knows that the way the districts are currently drawn is unfair. Now legislative leaders redraw districts to favor incumbents so that they win 95% of the time. The time is ripe to change the way the Illinois Legislature draws the map and you can help to put the Fair Map Amendment on the November ballot.

Perhaps you noticed the Daily Herald editorial “Voters, this is your chance to fight corruption” which appeared the week of March 1st. The editorial explained the choice of commission members and the open meeting process. Contact information was clearly given. The phone number 312-939-5935 just happens to be the LWVIL’s phone number. The website is ilfairmap.org. and email address is ilfairmap@gmail.com. You can download petitions and get more instructions, but hurry, you only have until April 1st. You may want to also click on the Illinois League’s website for more information about redistricting. Much of the information was supplied from the last issues briefing.

At that February issues briefing, Justin Levitt from the Brennan Center For Justice at NYU of Law, Tom Geoghegan, Public Interest Lawyer, and Representative Mike Fortner (R-95), West Chicago all spoke to why fair map districts are important for adequate representation of all possible points of view.

We all know the phrase, “compact and contiguous,” but few of us can explain “nesting” (legislative districts “nested” within senate districts) and few of us know how minority representation plays into redistricting. The afternoon session provided specific tips on circulating petitions.

Because the amendment is so long and complicated, the LWV of Geneva-St Charles compiled a question /answer paper which should shorten your study time if you want to get started right away in collecting signatures. You may have already received their work through the state League. The following questions are posed and answered in brief paragraphs: **What is the Fair Map Amendment? What is the problem? What are the advantages of the proposed amendment for a fair mapping process? Why should we handle this through an amendment to the Constitution? Who supports the Fair Map Amendment? What does my signature on the petition mean?**

Many people are reluctant to put their signature on any piece of paper, and I’ve been admonished that it is not permissible at a library. When you ask someone to sign, it may be wise to first explain that signing the petition will just get the amendment on the ballot. The signature does not mean that those signing are supporting the amendment, just that they want the voting public to consider it. Explaining that the state legislative leaders now control the process which results in 95% of incumbents winning their races and that the Fair Map Amendment has strict requirements on who can serve on the bipartisan Citizens’ Commission may also be necessary to convince some. Certainly mentioning a few of the several groups supporting the amendment should be persuasive.

Before the actual signing, be sure to make clear that the signatory needs to use his or her signature as it appears on the voter’s registration card. Also, print the street and village without using abbreviations. Since this is a petition for a state referendum, Illinois does not need to be included in the address. If not correct, some signatures can be rejected.

Once you have obtained the ten signatures on the petition form, have the petition notarized. You must sign your name as the circulator in the presence of the notary. Notaries are available at the villages and townships.

The **deadline** is looming. According to the Herald, you need to submit signatures by **April 1st**. Leaguers should send petitions to **LWVIL Office, 332 South Michigan Ave. #1050, Chicago, IL 60604-4301.**

Living in a democracy requires a little work from citizens. Getting ten signatures is not that difficult, and a fair redistricting could help to reduce the corruption that has snarled so much of the legislature’s work. So help fight corruption and circulate a couple petitions for the Fair Map Amendment.

One last note, if you signed Suzie Bassi’s petition at the Winter Cordial your signature is already on the petition and you cannot sign again.

Illinois's Fiscal Crisis

The speaker on this topic at the LWVIL Issues Briefing was John Bouman, President of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law and Spokesperson for the Responsible Budget Coalition. He explained that Illinois was already in fiscal crisis mode even before the recession hit.

The main problem is that the revenue system in Illinois is inadequate and unfair. It is inadequate because it does not grow with inflation, so it is increasingly behind spending growth. It is unfair because it is the most regressive in the nation calling for the poor to pay a much higher percentage of household income.

There are many consequences of this structural deficit: creditors are not being paid; nationally, Illinois has the lowest state contribution to public education; the public pension system is shortchanged; special funds are being swept; constant borrowing has led to a high debt service number; programs are either understaffed or being cut; gimmicks like selling the lottery or toll way are being offered.

The recession then created even more problems like depressed tax revenues and over \$4 billion in unpaid bills. A "quasi" budget was passed, but there was not enough to pay back bills and led to service cuts, furloughs, and layoffs. For FY 2011, it is estimated that Illinois will have a deficit approaching \$14 billion.

The Responsible Budget Coalition offers a possible solution and that is to encourage passage of HB174, a bill already passed by the Senate. This bill makes provision for reforming the revenue system by focusing on a net increase and mix of revenue measures.

Some specifics of the bill are raising the income tax from 3% to 5%; raising personal exemptions from \$2000 to \$3000; tripling the earned income credit; doubling the property tax exemption and refunding it if you don't pay income tax; and expanding the sales tax to luxury services. The gained revenue from the first year would be devoted to getting out of debt.

For further information, visit the website of the Responsible Budget Coalition at www.abetterillinois.com.

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

**VON SYDOW'S
MOVING AND STORAGE, INC.
Judy Von Sydow
Vice President**

250 East Illinois Avenue
P.O. Box 699
Palatine, IL 60078-0699

Phone: 847/934-2885
Fax: 847/934-8416

Email: vonsydow1@vonsydow.com
Web: www.vonsydow.com

Smith-Corcoran Funeral Homes

185 East Northwest Highway
Palatine, IL 60067

Mr. Robert J. Smith, Director

Plum Grove Dental Associates, Ltd.

222 N. Plum Grove
Rd.
Palatine, IL 60067

Ph: (847)359-4700
Fax: (847)359-9977

Web Site: <http://www.plumgrovedental.com>

991-3990



Distinctive
Jewelry
Design
Specialists
Expert
Repairs
Appraisal
Service

3 EAST NORTHWEST HWY. PALATINE
LOCATED AT NORTHWEST HIGHWAY &
PLUM GROVE ROAD

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
PALATINE AREA



Larry Moats
Moats Office Properties
P.O. Box 1189
Palatine, IL 60078
Phone: (847) 359-2121

Barb Knoff
847.359.6224
goodthings@smallpackageproductions.com
www.smallpackageproductions.com
small package productions

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

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PALATINE AREA
P. O. Box 35
Palatine , Illinois 60078