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Mission Statement

We are a non-partisan political organization dedicated to making democracy work through: Voter Education, Issue Advocacy and Citizen Participation.

Date	Event	Details
Monday, Jan 6, 2020	LWVPA Board Meeting	6:30 PM Palatine Library
Tuesday, Jan 23	Book Club	The Far Away Brothers, Granite City Brewery, Noon
Monday, Feb 3	LWVPA Board Meeting	6:30 PM Palatine Library
Tuesday, Feb 4	No Small Matter – Early Childhood Education	Schaumburg Library, Registration Required
Saturday, Feb 15	Illinois Issues Briefing	9:30 am – 3:00 pm Northeastern University

Co-President’s Column

As we bid a fond farewell to 2019, I thought it would be important to reflect back on some of the great things that our League has done throughout this past year...

We raised \$1269 from our Wine Tasting and Holiday Cordial silent auctions. This was due in large part to the hard work that Carolyn Roberts and Chris Price did to collect donations and transform them into irresistible purchases. At our Salad Luncheon, \$241 was donated to purchase a LWVPA retractable banner. Vicki Martin put together 4 informative candidate forums. Cammy Basak and Marilyn McCarty-Fulton organized 6 engaging Book Club discussions. Louise Fleming and Dayle Roberts gave our LWVPA website a new look. Renee Gladstone and Melanie Carter organized an untold number of voter registration events. Ann Kennedy spearheaded the decoration of a beautiful suffragette scarecrow for Palatine's Scarecrows on Parade contest. Laura Davis once again took charge of our Observer Corps. In partnership with the Schaumburg Township District Library, Cammy Basak planned several programs highlighting the 100-year anniversary of women's right to vote. We hosted 4 Drinks and Discussions and 3 other programs at local libraries. Susan Buttafuoco and Juanita Kendall started Coffee and Conversation for our new members. Dayle Roberts, Ann Kennedy and I worked together to create a new "Join Us" brochure. Debby Brauer was instrumental in having Brigid Leahy, Planned Parenthood of Illinois Senior Director, speak to us about women's reproductive health at a Let's Talk. Laura Davis and Jim McGrath began serving as Issue Specialists at the state level. We concluded an over 2-year study of townships. We partnered with the Barrington Area Library to sponsor the year long series of Courageous Conversations. Megan Kennedy volunteered to help Dayle Roberts publish our newsletter. Susan Kern, Betty Hull and I revised our By-Laws. We formed environmental, fundraising, gun violence prevention and voter engagement committees. Many of you came out and volunteered to lend a hand at our events. Many of you brought along a friend and helped to grow our membership to our current number of 109!

It is with much gratitude and appreciation that I thank each and everyone one of you that helped to make these fabulous events a reality. It is members like you that contribute your time and talent to make our League what it is and what it will continue to be: a nonpartisan organization that "encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and works to influence public policy through education and advocacy." Together we're better.

Jackie McGrath

Candidate Forum

Can you believe its forum time again? We have booked a room at the Schaumburg Library on **Saturday, February 29, from 11-2. 8th Congressional District:** Raja Krishnamoorthi (D) will face 3 other Democratic candidates. If you are a forum volunteer, please keep your dates loose in February for Primary forums, and September for the General Election. Set-up begins at 10

We will be partnering with LWV Arlington Heights this year, so they may also need volunteers. They are having a forum at the AH Library on Saturday, February 22.

6th District Forum will be held in early March.

The Observers Corps monitor and report on the following boards:

Barrington Township	Palatine Library Board
Cook County Forest Preserve	Palatine Township
Cook County Commissioners	Palatine Village
Cook County Health	Rolling Meadows City Council
Cook County States Attorney	School District 15
Elk Grove Township	School District 220
Harper College	South Barrington Village
Metropolitan Water Reclamation	

OBSERVERS CORPS UPDATE

November/December 2019

Rolling Meadows City Council made decisions on the 2020 budget. Library budget levy was decreased, city budget/property tax was decreased, and a tax levy abatement was approved. Discussions continue on Gaming licenses. Amended city's code of ordinances to include microbreweries, micro distilleries and micro wineries. The city zoning Code of Ordinances was amended to allow recreational marijuana cultivation and dispensing facilities.

School District 15 continues to discuss the costs associated with adding all-day kindergarten.

Harper College board listened to a presentation about the 2019 Campus Sustainability Program. A fall survey showed about 83% of students were either concerned or very concerned about environmental issues. Programs on waste reduction, composting and recycling has been put in place. The cafeteria no longer uses Styrofoam.

(Note: the information from the Harper College observer report allowed the LWV Palatine Area Environmental Committee to follow up with the school. We offered to partner with them on environmental programs which was positively received.)

Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

Linda Sabor

Maria Peterson

Help Register Voters!

If you are a voter registrar, please volunteer to help out at one or more of these upcoming Voter Registration events:

January 23: Barrington Highschool 8:20 am – 3:30 pm 4 Shifts.

- 8:20 – 10:10 need 1 person;
- 10:10 – 11:54 filled;
- 11:54 – 1:39 need 1 person;
- 1:38 – 3:30 pm need 1 person

January 29: Journeys to the Road Home 10:00 am – Noon – Need 1 person

February 1: Palatine Farmers Market (Indoors at Palatine Train Station) 8AM - Noon (2 shifts, 8 - 10 and 10 - 12) – filled

February 15: Palatine Farmers Market (Indoors at Palatine Train Station) 8 AM - Noon (2 shifts, 8 - 10 and 10 - 12) – filled

March 7: Palatine Farmers Market (Indoors at Palatine Train Station) 8AM -Noon (2 shifts, 8 - 10 and 10 - 12 (2d shift full) **8 – 10 shift needs 1 person**

Please reach out to Melanie Carter at melanicar@yahoo.com or Renee Gladstone at rrgladstone@aol.com to sign up!

Voter Engagement Committee, submitted by Renee Gladstone

When we met over the summer, we had a lot of ideas for getting out the vote and registering people to vote. We have made progress on 2 of our ideas. One idea was "I will vote, will you?" stickers. They are quite popular at our registration tables.



In addition, we are all interested in ensuring that young people register to vote so they can get in the habit of participating in elections. To that end, we met with Dr. Lisa Small, Associate Superintendent for Instruction at High School District 211. Along with Dr. Small, there were teachers from Fremd and Palatine High Schools, and Melanie Carter, Ann Kennedy, Jackie McGrath, and Renee Gladstone from our League. The teachers assured us they are pro-active in encouraging students to register to vote when they turn the right age, primarily using online registration. Dr. Small asked us to describe our organization, and we all tossed around ideas for ways our League could be of service to the schools.

We should hear back in a few weeks what, if anything, we'll be invited to do.

In the meantime, our voter registration team has been and will continue to be out in the community hosting registration tables all over our suburbs. You'll be pleased to know that we often receive compliments for the League's work.

Illinois Primary: Tuesday, March 17

General Election: Tuesday, November 3

January 2020
Cannabis Policies from Other Countries

I recently read “Travel as a Political Act” by Rick Steves. The book was thought provoking with one chapter discussing cannabis policies from other countries. It is interesting to consider how other countries handle recreational cannabis as Illinois policy changes in January.

Four countries were specifically addressed, but the general outcomes in Europe are fewer drug-related deaths, less drug-related violence, less drug-related incarceration, and less drug consumption per-capita than the US. Europe does not have any continent-wide agreement on drug policy, but different European countries have experimented with different policies.

General classification of drugs are:

soft drugs — marijuana, alcohol, tobacco

hard drugs — heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine

Soft drugs are considered a Public Health problem and treated with education and prevention. Hard drug strategy uses law enforcement, education and healthcare. Law enforcement focuses on dealers, while users are steered toward treatment. Anti-drug education occurs in schools and through the medical community, with emphasis on prevention of AIDS, HIV and HepC.

In the Netherlands, recreational use of marijuana was decriminalized in 1976. While drugs are not legal, prosecutors have made it a policy not to prosecute. The Dutch have a policy of “gedogen” (tolerance). There are tough laws for driving under the influence (alcohol or drugs), and heroin and cocaine are strictly illegal. Marijuana can be purchased in a “coffee shop” if you are over 18 years old, and these shops are considered a “firewall” against hard drugs. The shops cannot advertise and they are used by police to educate the drug-using community about drug dangers. The Dutch 40-year history has shown that marijuana use increased, but not greater than other European countries. The overall Dutch use is 23% of the population as compared to 30% of Italians, French and Brits. Remarkably, there was no increase among teens, who smoke half as much as US teens.

While marijuana is illegal in Spain, there are many cannabis clubs which are similar to social clubs. These clubs are funded by an annual membership, don’t advertise, don’t allow minors, stay quiet and close at midnight in order not to upset their neighbors. Additionally, they have predictable drug quality and never sell to non-members. Each member is a co-owner of the drug production.

The Swiss approach focuses on public health and sells hygienic, government subsidized syringes in cigarette machines. Heroin-maintenance clinics are staffed with RNs and counselors who will dose users to maintenance in order to avoid overdoses. Public bathrooms are lit with blue lights so people cannot see their veins and shoot up in the bathroom. Crime and AIDS cases related to heroin use have decreased, recovery and employment has increased, and consumption and overdoses have gone down. By providing clean needles, reliable purity, potency and quantity, the Swiss have seen a decrease in crime and violence.

In 2001, Portugal decriminalized all drugs and experienced no change in routine drug use. Drug use among adolescents declined and Portugal now has half as many addicts, fewer HIV cases, and more people in treatment.

In the US, criminalization of marijuana has drained resources, clogged the legal system, and distracted law enforcement. The US puts more tax dollars toward police, courts and prisons. In Europe, money is spent on RNs, counselors and clinics, and saves 15 Euros in police and healthcare costs for each Euro invested in drug education, addiction prevention and counseling. The philosophy is harm reduction vs incarceration and science vs ideology. The US opioid deaths in 2017 were 50,000, while Europe, with a bigger population, had 10,000 opioid deaths. The US approach has been shown to drive users to dangerous behaviors.

Lastly, Rick Steves states that the US has “rigged the system” through the United Nations. The US pushed through a clause that states if a country legalizes drugs, they risk “decertification” by the UN. This means that the country will be disqualified from receiving foreign aid. Therefore, countries do not decriminalize drugs, but choose not to prosecute. This

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UN clause particularly impacts South and Central America where those countries live with the violence and are prevented from making changes. Current drug laws enrich organized crime throughout the world.

Submitted by Laura Davis 12.19

Web Site Revisions

By Dayle Roberts

Louise Fleming has joined me in maintaining our website. She has undertaken the huge task of simplifying and updating our website structure. This has resulted in some things being renamed and many things moved.

On our home page: www.lwvpalatinearea.org many of the menu items are now represented as clickable links in the text. The new menu bar is shown below:



HOME ABOUT INFORMATION CALENDAR JOIN DONATE CART (0)

The Text portion of the page is shown below:



Who We Are	Voter Information
Calendar of Events	Observer Reports
Become a Member	News From Other Leagues
Donate	Chapter Governance
Newsletter	Important Links
Photos	Contact Us

Important Links is the renamed link to “**Hot Topics**”.

The **Donate Page** has been updated to allow donation of any amount (rather than preset amounts). All donations benefit our chapter.

The **Calendar** has been updated (removed link to GMAIL Calendar). The Calendar now shows a list of events scheduled within 8 weeks of the current date. No more scrolling through a full-page calendar one calendar month at a time only to see a highly abbreviated description of the event.

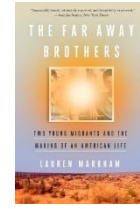
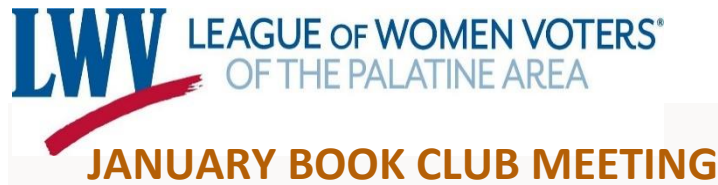
Contact Us has been updated to include a comment form. All comments are sent to our league’s email address.

News From Other Leagues was added. This page provides links to newsletters from other local leagues.

I encourage you to check out our website. Take it out for a spin! **Thank you, Louise!**

NOTE: Our Facebook Page is totally separate from our website. The two do NOT speak to each other.

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The Far Away Brothers: Two Young Migrants and the Making of an American Life by Lauren Markham

The deeply reported story of identical twin brothers who escape El Salvador's violence to build new lives in California—fighting to survive, to stay, and to belong. Growing up in rural El Salvador in the wake of the civil war, the United States was a distant fantasy to identical twins Ernesto and Raul Flores until, at age seventeen, a deadly threat from the region's brutal gangs forces them to flee the only home they've ever known. In this urgent chronicle of contemporary immigration, journalist Lauren Markham follows the Flores twins as they make their way across the Rio Grande and the Texas desert, into the hands of immigration authorities, and from there to their estranged older brother in Oakland, CA. Soon these unaccompanied minors are navigating school in a new language, working to pay down their mounting coyote debt, and facing their day in immigration court, while also encountering the triumphs and pitfalls of teenage life with only each other for support. With intimate access and breathtaking range, Markham offers an unforgettable testament to the migrant experience.

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 12:00PM
Granite City Food and Brewery (separate checks)
801 Plaza Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60173
Please RSVP by January 9, 2019
Cammy Basak cbasak3@msn.com
Marilyn McCarty-Fulton marilynmc426@gmail.com

Resources

Interview with Author Lauren Markham

<http://www.capradio.org/news/insight/2019/04/10/author-lauren-markham-t-ells-story-of-migration-through-the-eyes-of-twin-brothers-from-el-salvador/>

60 Minutes TV Program

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/el-salvador-president-navib-bukele-the-60-minutes-interview-2019-12-15/>

Fleeing gang violence and poverty, 90,000 Salvadorans were apprehended at the U.S. border in the last year. El Salvadorian President Nayib Bukele tells 60 Minutes how he's trying to fix his country.

Please join in this opportunity to socialize with your fellow League members and discuss important political and social issues. Bring a friend!

January 2020

No Small Matter is the first feature documentary to explore the most overlooked, underestimated, and powerful force for change in America today: early childhood education. Through poignant stories and surprising humor, the film lays out the overwhelming evidence for the importance of the first five years and reveals how our failure to act on that evidence has resulted in an everyday crisis for American families and a slow-motion catastrophe for the country. *[The program is not limited to parents of young children—this issue affects all of us.]*

Join us for the film and expert panel!

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

7:00–9:00 pm

Schaumburg Township District Library, Rasmussen Room

130 South Roselle Road, Schaumburg, IL 60193

Space is limited! RSVP today: <https://schaumburg.libnet.info/event/3490955>.

Sponsors



Save the Children
Action Network..



Distinguished Panel

Robin Byster, Site Manager, Children's Home and Aid; Marletta Darnell Child and Family Center

Julie Gorvett, Principal, Early Learning Center, Schaumburg School District 54

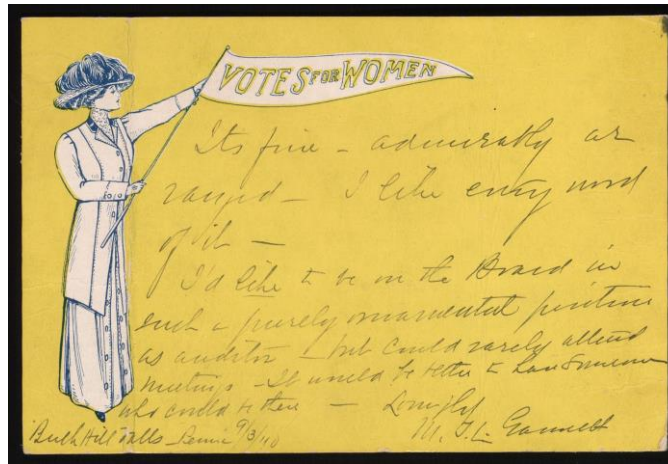
Dr. Jin-ah Kim, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, Roosevelt University

Barbara Quinn, Member of Governor's Early Learning Council, Illinois Parent Teacher Association

Barbara Romano, Principal, Early Learning Center, Barrington School District 220

Matt Warren, Principal, Conyers Learning Academy, Palatine School District 15

**The Long Road to Victory: Vignettes of the Woman
Suffrage Movement
Commemorating
The 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote**



**Join League Members and Friends as We Continue Our
Yearlong Celebration of This Momentous Event!**

**If you missed this program the first time, here's another
opportunity!**

**Thursday, March 12, 2020 6:30PM
Palatine Public Library
700 N. North Court**

**Annette Baldwin, in a first-person monologue, portrays five brilliant, dedicated
leaders in the woman suffrage movement: Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton,
Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt.**

Free to members and the public

Register at www.palatinelibrary.org Events

or 847-358-5881

January 2020



**Votes for Women:
The 72 Year Struggle for Women's Suffrage
Commemorating
The 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote**



**Join League Members and Friends as We Continue Our
Yearlong Celebration of This Momentous Event!**

**Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:00PM
Barrington Area Library
505 N/ Northwest Highway, Barrington**

Through an illustrated slide lecture presenter Leslie Goddard, historian, author and dramatist, will explore the struggle from 1848—when the first call for women's votes was issued at Seneca Falls—to 1920 when the 19th amendment gave all American women the vote.

Free to members and the public

**Registration opening soon at www.barringtonarealibrary.org Events
or 847-382-1300**

January 2020



The Year of Courageous Conversations

Our League is supporting the *Year of Courageous Conversations* project, a new yearlong series offered in the Barrington area. Recognizing the need for better dialogue across divides, community leaders have joined forces to launch *A Year of Courageous Conversations* to explore how to live together in difference.

Join your fellow League members for these informative sessions.

For more info about this project:

<http://www.urbanconsulate.com/courageousconversations>

A summary of each session can be found on the blog, including handouts and the slideshow. If you've missed a session or are unable to attend, this blog will give you a meaningful understanding of each session.

<http://www.urbanconsulate.com/courageousconversations/blog>

Future programs through **June** are open for online registration. Although, frequently waitlisted there is a chance you will be contacted to attend if you put your name on the list.

<http://www.urbanconsulate.com/courageousconversations/events>

Upcoming Sessions

DR. ROBIN DIANGELO

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

7:00 PM 9:00 PM

Barrington's White House

CONFRONTING PREJUDICE

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

7:00 PM 9:00 PM

Barrington's White House