



League of Women Voters of Chicago
Website - www.LWVChicago.org

The Chicago Voter

May 2017
Vol. 67 No. 10

In this issue

- CiF Report
- Next CiF...pg 2
- Breakfast Report...pg 3
- New Members...pg 3
- Voter Service...pg 3
- Unit Meetings...pg 3
- Health Care Report...pg 4
- Health Care Committee...pg 4
- News from other LWVs...pg 5
- CiF Flyer...pg 6
- LWVChicago Annual Meeting Flyer...pg 7

Upcoming Events

State of the City Luncheon

Tuesday, May 2, 11:30 am
Union League Club

LWVCookCounty Annual Meeting

Monday, May 8, 9:30 to 1 pm
University Center

Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 5:30 pm

Chicago in Focus

Thursday, May 11, 5 to 7 pm
Union League Club

Briefing/Open Meeting

Saturday, May 13, 10 am
Room 430

Health Committee

Wednesday, May 31, 12:15 pm

LWVChicago Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 17, 9 to 1
Union League Club

Meetings in the LWVChicago Conference Room in Suite 634 at 332 S Michigan unless listed otherwise

Please check the web site LWVChicago.org for additional scheduled committee meetings.

Call 312-939-5949 or email for meeting locations.

A YEAR OF ACTION

President's Message

Dear Members,



In April, I attended the University of Chicago's Booth on Board Conference for non-profit executives and volunteers. We heard talks from distinguished faculty and experienced leaders about strategic planning, board recruitment and financial management. I left with a lot of great ideas for the next year.

This is one of the uses of our new Leadership Training fund. We're also using it to defray the costs of a moderator training session and registration for the LWVIL convention and workshops in June. And, of course, we'll have more training opportunities and programs for the 2017-2018 year.



In addition, we know there is huge interest in learning how to run for office and serve on civic commissions. See the report from our last **Chicago in Focus** event on page 2 for more information about this.

We have members collecting data right now. At our Annual Meeting in June one of our members, State Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, will talk about how she got started in politics. And a few people have tossed around the idea of organizing a workshop on the topic. (Are you interested? Do you want to help? Send us a [message!](#))

One of the reasons the League has been around for so long is that members have many great opportunities to learn new skills that they can apply to their lives and their communities. We intend to continue the tradition so we will continue to make a difference into the new century.

Annie

Illinois State Budget



The topic for the Briefing/Open Meeting for May is the Illinois State Budget.

Representative Greg Harris (D-13th District) will be the presenter. Rep. Harris is the Majority Conference Chair for the Illinois House Democrats and chief budget negotiator. After the formal briefing part of the meeting, attendees are invited to discuss opportunities for action.

If you wish to attend, [contact](#) the office or phone 312-939-5949 so your name can be placed on the building security list.

Report on the March CiF: Running for Political Office



On March 28
Mia Phifer of
Mia Phifer and
Associates
spoke to about
50 League
members and
friends about

modern political campaigns at the ***Chicago in Focus*** series cosponsored by LWVChicago and the Union League Club of Chicago. Phifer is an experienced political consultant—she has worked on municipal, state legislative, gubernatorial and US Congressional elections since 1997--and focuses on working with women and first-time candidates.

Fundraising

Campaigns run on money, and it is hard work to raise it. A potential candidate must identify and evaluate resources, beginning with family, friends and close associates, then moving to classmates, professional acquaintances, neighbors and business contacts. She must then track all contacts in spread sheets. Along with each contact's name, address, telephone and e-mail, the lists should include context: Is the person a family member, friend, neighbor, schoolmate, member of a church or organization? The lists also include requests and responses as well as dates and amounts. This information is important, because big donors want to know the number of individuals who have contributed as well as the average contribution amount.

Big donors and organizations expect a candidate to approach them and respond to questions about issues as well as campaign plans, particularly fundraising. A candidate should be prepared to discuss her background and previous successes, her expectations for the campaign and goals in office. Phifer said that this preparation makes sure the candidate hasn't auditioned for a role and then found that she will be performing in a different play.

Planning and Organization

Planning is crucial to fundraising success. The proverbial boiler room includes several staff members or volunteers and the candidate who

prepare the campaign message, generate call lists and identify the number of calls per hour and expected

results. Campaign staff record the number of calls and their results per hour. Calls for fundraising typically total 40 hours in a five-day week.

A candidate must not only want to win but know how to win. The “how to” comes from professional fundraisers and message consultants. While the candidate controls the message and public perception, message consultants shape effective communication and respond to issues and questions as they arise. Volunteers are key components of any campaign, but their time may be limited. A candidate therefore must rely on the support of staff who are immediately available to respond to whatever comes up. A function of paid staff is to train volunteers, but it is up to the candidate to tell supporters what is needed.

Campaign Costs and Financing Reform

The costs of campaigns vary. It is more costly to run against an incumbent than to run for an open seat. Candidates financing their own campaigns raises the possibility that public office will be available only to independently wealthy. Phifer suggested that campaign finance laws permit a campaign to pay the candidate a stipend if the candidate's income is less than a fixed amount set by law.

Where to Start

Phifer urged members of the audience to consider running for office. In Chicago, local school councils are a great place to begin. The councils are local and involve neighbors and friends in the school area. So begin collecting those lists—and save them; they will be useful, if not now, then the next time.

Margaret Herring

Next ***Chicago in Focus:*** ***The Innocence Project***



Come join us at the Union League Club on Thursday, May 11 for our final program of the season. Laura Caldwell, Director of Life after Innocence, author, and Loyola University Law Professor, will speak about the shameful practice of putting innocent people in jail for crimes they didn't commit. Why did this happen? Is it still happening? Doors open at 5 p.m., program begins at 5:30.

Admission is free; cash bar. See the ***CiF*** flyer on page 6 of this ***Chicago Voter*** for details. There is no charge, and all are invited. To ensure, however, that we have a large enough room, please RSVP to the League office, 312-939-5949 or League@LWVChicago.org.

Breakfast and Orientation for New and Prospective Members

About 20 new and prospective Chicago League members were treated to breakfast and an overview of the League at all levels and Chicago League activities in particular. Board members, Committee Chairs, and Membership Committee members hosted. This was our second such event this year because of the large numbers of people who have joined our League or expressed interest in joining since last fall. Similar events will be held in the future.

Welcome to New Members

*Judy Brady
Andy Douglas
Anne Jamieson
Sameena Mustafa
Nina Newhouser
Halema Noufel
Wendy Posner
Lauren Rosenthal
Katherine Scafidi*

Voter Service

Registering Voters at the March for Science



LWVChicago Deputy Voter Registrars Claire Hartfield, Cathy Mardikes, Melanie Norstrom and Julie Shelton were busy at the April 22 March for



Science. The Chicago League members registered about 23 voters and distributed additional information.

If you would like to become a Deputy Voter Registrar, plan to enroll in one of the Board

of Election Training Sessions. Deputy Voter Registrar Training is scheduled for:

Thursday, May 11 – 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 17 – 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 25 – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 8 – 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 14 – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 24 – 9:30 a.m.

Please [contact](#) the office at least three days in advance to be enrolled in a class.

On Line Voter Registration



[Register](#) to vote any time, anywhere with a smart phone or from your computer. This method can be used by applicants who are in the Illinois Secretary of State's data base with a Driver's license or State ID. Share this web site (ova.elections.il.gov) with anyone needing to register.

Helene Gabelnick

Unit Meetings

Topic: Illinois State Budget

Far Southwest Side Unit

Wednesday, May 24 – 7 PM
Beverly Unitarian Church
10244 S Longwood Drive
Leaders – Marcia Cowing, Betsy Perrine

Hyde Park Unit

Thursday, May 25 – 1:30 PM
Montgomery Place
Leaders – Susan Hamburger, Dorothy Scheff

Loop Unit – afternoon

Wednesday, May 17 – 1:00 PM
Home of Carol Ziegeldorf*
Leader – Carol Ziegeldorf

Loop Unit – evening

Tuesday, May 16 – 5:30 PM
LWVChicago Conference Room
Leader – Margaret Herring

Loop Unit – morning

Thursday, May 18 – 10 AM
LWVChicago Conference Room
Leader – Bernice Fortini

West Side Unit

Sunday, May 21 – 1:30 PM
Third Unitarian Church
301 N. Mayfield, Chicago
Leader – Joan Morton

*Contact the office for address

The Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago
332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 634

Chicago, IL 60604, 312-939-5949, LWVChicago.org
Email – League@LWVChicago.org

Annie Logue	President
Jill Althage	Vice President
Esta Kallen	Vice President
Alice Perlin	Secretary
Pat Vogtman	Treasurer
Helene Gabelnick and Karen Sandrick	Voter Editors

LWVChicago Annual Meeting



Plan to attend the LWVChicago Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 17. The highlight for this year's meeting is Barbara Flynn Currie, LWVChicago member and Illinois State Representative, our keynote speaker. Hon. Currie will tell us about her experiences as a candidate for office and officeholder.

Also at the meeting:

- The Greensfelder-Elam Award will be presented.
- Members will conduct the "business" of LWVChicago: electing officers and directors, approving the proposed budget and changes to bylaws and program for the next year.
- A report detailing the activities and accomplishments of the past year will be presented.
- Plans and goals for next year will be developed.

A separate **Annual Meeting Voter** will be published in mid-May with all the details.

This is an opportunity to join with other members to help plan for the next League year. See the flyer on page 8 of this Chicago Voter to register.

Health Care Issues Report

The Affordable Care Act



The American Health Care Act to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act was not brought to a vote in March. The Republican House Freedom Caucus and the

moderate Tuesday Group have been negotiating changes to the act and planned to resubmit a bill by April 28, according to *Business Insider*. A tall order for Congress, which also has to pass a budget to avoid a federal government shut down. At the time of writing, it is unclear what action will be taken on this issue in the next few weeks.



Coalition to lobby Illinois Representatives, urging them not to repeal the ACA without an adequate replacement. Advocacy focused on seven Illinois Congressional Districts whose Representatives expressed support for repeal of the ACA: 6th district, Peter Roskam; 12th district, Mike Bost; 13th district,

During the April Congressional recess, LWVIL worked with the Protect Our Care IL

Rodney Davis; 14th district, Randy Hultgren; 15th district, John Shimkus; 16th district Adam Kinzinger; and 18th district. Darin LaHood. For months many groups have held rallies encouraging these Representatives to hold Town Hall meetings with their constituents and discuss many concerns, including the ACA. Local LWVIL Leagues arranged Question and Answer Sessions in two districts: on April 18 with Rep. Hultgren and on April 22 with Rep. Kinzinger. Both events were well attended.

Illinois Reproductive Health



On April 25 the Illinois General Assembly passed HB40. This bill repeals a trigger provision in the 1975 Illinois Abortion Law that states if Roe v Wade is ever overturned or modified by the US Supreme Court, Illinois will revert to its pre-Roe law that made abortion a criminal act. This bill also allows women covered by Medicaid and the State Employees Health Insurance to obtain insurance coverage for abortion care. The bill now moves to the Senate. On April 14 Governor Bruce Rauner's office announced he will veto the bill if it passes the Illinois Senate.

LWVIL issued a Time for Action (TFA) requesting that members contact the Governor and ask him to reconsider this decision.

Margaret O'Hara

Health Committee

LWVChicago's Health Committee met on April 13 to continue discussing concerns about the ACA and look for opportunities to advocate against repeal without adequate replacement.



Two more members have expressed interest in observing the Cook County Health and Hospital Systems Board meetings and have been referred to LWV Cook County to begin participation in this program.

We have received an invitation from Chicago Department of Public Health to attend the Healthy Chicago 2.0 Partners Celebration on May 23. Its purpose is to examine results of the first of a four-year plan to improve health equity in the city. Some committee members have RSVP'd and look forward to what can be learned from this event.

The next Health Committee meeting will be on **May 31 at 12:15** at the League office. Please [let us know](#) if you plan to attend.

Margaret O'Hara

News

FROM LWV LAKE MICHIGAN REGION

Water Summit to be Held in Chicago

The Freshwater Lab at the University of Illinois at Chicago invites League members to attend one or both

days of a free water conference, *Untrouble the Waters*. Speakers from Great Lakes states and Canada will discuss current issues, including oil pipelines and lead in drinking water, and focus on environmental

justice. The Summit will be held at the Student Center East Meeting Rooms, 750 S. Halsted St., Chicago IL on **May 10 and 11**. See the agenda and registration information on the event [website](#).

LWVLMR is pleased to join the Freshwater Lab in recognizing public officials responsible for protecting the Great Lakes. A majority of the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, including the President and Vice President, are women, an achievement that will be celebrated during the Summit.



Freshwater Lab Summit 2017

It's not the Rust Belt, it's the Water Belt

LWV Lake Michigan Region Annual Meeting Slated for November

The LWVLMR annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the State of the Lake Conference. The conference will be hosted by the International Association for Great Lakes Research and held from November 6-9 at the Hyatt Regency in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Members may choose to attend the conference or only LWVLMR events. Our committee is planning a banquet as well as an annual business meeting. Please pencil in the dates.

FROM LWV COOK COUNTY

Spring and Summer Events

ANNUAL MEETING. This will be held on Monday, May 8 from 10:00 to 1:00 at the University Center, 525 S. State, Chicago. There is no better way to get an overview of all that this League has been doing this past year and find out what is planned for the next. You'll also have the opportunity to hear from Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer, who was elected from a district on the north side of Chicago, our luncheon speaker.

CAUCUS AT THE LWVIL CONVENTION. Going to the LWVIL Convention? Look for the County League's caucus on Pre-Trial Procedures in Criminal Courts.

SUMMER LUNCH AND LEARN. Save the date--Tuesday, August 8 from 11:30 to 1:30--for the annual Lunch & Learn with the League, which this year features the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Board President Mariyana Spyropoulos.

Pris Mims

FROM LWVIL: CONVENTION 2017

The LWVIL 2017 Convention, **June 5-7** at the Hilton Garden Inn O'Hare, hosts preconvention programs on environmental justice, social media, civics lessons for



our time, developing tomorrow's leaders, advocacy through alliances and collaboration, and consolidation of governmental units. In addition, Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CEO of LWVUS and Kyra Kyles, editor-in-chief of Ebony Magazine are guest speakers on Saturday. The [registration form](#) has all the details.

FROM LWVUS: NEWS WRAP-UP

- The League continues to benefit from the growing nationwide trend of women getting involved in politics.
- Leagues are leading the way to push back on the intentional voting rights obstructions we are seeing around the country.
- In Wisconsin, the League is utilizing increased engagement to support fundraising activity. The Upper Mississippi River Regions are leading the way to protect natural resources.
- Leagues like Blount County Tennessee, are convening healthcare panel discussions. Leagues, including San Joaquin County, are exploring conversation on immigration.
- New Google Discussion Group: Health Care Reform

As the fight for health care continues, what is next for advocates at the state and national levels? The LWVUS Board recently approved a new a Google discussion group for Health Care Reform. This discussion and sharing group for League members on health care reform, including behavioral health, welcomes ideas, resources, successes and questions.

To receive an invitation to the group please contact Linda Hawkins (abitahawk@gmail.com) or Linda Mahan (Lmahan78@gmail.com).



Chicago in Focus

A quarterly discussion series featuring All Things Chicago

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Chicago and the Union League Club of Chicago

May 11, 2017

Life after Innocence

Why Innocent People are Sent to Prison in Chicago

What You Should Know and What You Can Do



Laura Caldwell

Laura Caldwell is a law professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law and director of Life after Innocence, which helps wrongfully imprisoned people upon exoneration to reenter society and reclaim their rights.

Union League Club

5 – 7 p.m.

65 W. Jackson Blvd.

Doors open at 5 p.m.

Chicago, IL

Program begins at 5:30

Admission is free, cash bar

Dress: Business casual, no jeans/denim

RSVP to 312-939-5949 or League@LWVChicago.org

Bring a friend!



2017 Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters of Chicago

**Keynote Speaker State Representative
Barbara Flynn Currie**

**Saturday, June 17, 2017
9 am to 1 pm
Check-in, Coffee: 9 am
Meeting: 9:30 am to noon
Luncheon Following**

**Union League Club
65 W. Jackson Blvd.
Cost \$35**

Reservations and payment due by Friday, June 9

**Pay [online](#)
or**

A handwritten-style signature line consisting of a stylized 'X' and a horizontal dotted line.

Return this portion with your check to:

League of Women Voters of Chicago
332 S. Michigan Ave. Suite 634
Chicago, IL 60604

Name _____

Number of Reservations _____ Contact information _____