



The Chicago Voter

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

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In this issue

Annual Meeting Photos...pg 2
Annual Meeting Highlights and Honorees...pg 3
Membership Committee...pg 4
Unit Restructuring...pg 4
Alderman Interviews...pg 4
Chicago in Focus...pg 4
Communications...pg 5
Education...pg 5
Drinks and Dialog...pg 5
Lunch and Learn...pg 5
Voter Service...pg 6
New Members...pg 6
Membership Dues...pg 6
Tribute Fund...pg 6
Dues Payment Form...pg 7
Lunch and Learn Flyer...pg 8

Upcoming Events

Education Committee
Wednesday, July 5 10 am and 5:30 pm

Membership Committee
Thursday, July 13, 6 pm

Chicago in Focus Planning
Tuesday, July 18, 6 pm

Voter Service
Thursday, July 20, 6 pm

Board Meeting*
Saturday, August 5
9 am to noon

LWVCookCounty
Lunch and Learn* August 8
Meetings held 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 meetings.

Call 312-939-5949 or [email](#) for meeting locations.

A YEAR OF ENGAGEMENT

President's Message

Dear Members,

We're off to a new League year after our Annual Meeting (see photo below and articles following) with a new theme: **A Year of Engagement**. We're going to engage in the League and engage our community in the political process.

It's an exciting time. Illinois has a primary election on March 20, 2018. There's plenty to do: registering voters, educating them on the issues, and getting them out to the polls. Helene Gabelnick, our Voter Service chair, is in the process of organizing a task force to focus on the election. See the article on page 6 of this *Chicago Voter* and watch your email for more information.

We're also going to be organizing **Chicago in Focus**, launching a new web site, and setting up more units. I'm so glad for your enthusiasm.

We're going to make this city better!

Annie Logue



There were fifty-two LWVChicago members and two non-members present at the Annual Meeting held on June 17 at the Union League Club. For a full report of LWVChicago's 2016-2017 Year of Action see the [Annual Report](#).

Members adopted the proposed operating fund budget for 2017-18 and the program items for education and city council as [presented](#).

Members also elected officers, directors and nominating committee and chose the theme for 2017-2018 **A Year of Engagement**.

The LWVChicago Board of Directors for 2017-2018:

Officers

Annie Logue – President
Jill Althage – Vice-President
Cathy Potkay – Vice-President
Karen Sandrick – Vice-President
Nancy Kelly-Martin – Secretary
Pat Vogtman – Treasurer

Directors

Nancy Brandt
Sarah Bury
Bernice Fortini
Helene Gabelnick
Patricia Graunke
Margaret Herring
Jeanne Mayer
Rae Sokolow

LWVCHICAGO 2017 ANNUAL MEETING



Keynote Speaker Barbara Flynn Currie (left). Greensfelder-Elam Award presented by last year's winner Rae Sokolow to 2017 recipient Nancy Brandt (above right).



LWVChicago President Annie Logue addressing members at the Annual Meeting held on June 17 at the Union League Club of Chicago (at left).

Photos by Charles Potkay.

At the Annual Meeting members heard from keynote speaker Representative Barbara Flynn Currie.



Rep. Currie has been inspired by the League of Women Voters since childhood, the League's nonpartisan policies have guided her approach to public service. Her mother was a member of the LWV, and as a young mother in Washington,

D.C., she herself joined the League to engage in public service. Rep. Currie attributed her initial success as a first-time candidate because she felt conversant with major topics and that added to her credibility as a candidate in Hyde Park. She attributed her success to an active engagement with policy.

In terms of women as candidates, **Rep. Currie** is strongly committed to programs like Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership (IWIL), a one-year program, which mentors and provides workshops for women seeking office. Women, she feels, must be 'self-starters' and network! Women candidates have assets which should be accented: a greater sensitivity to issues such as healthcare and education. Women, she felt, must "seize the issues." Women are the "new hope!"

Nancy Kelly-Martin



LWVChicago recognized:

Dorothy Scheff and **Barbara Flynn Currie**, League members for 50 years or more.

Esta Kallen. An LWVChicago member for 40 years, Esta served as Co-President and President for 5 years and a Board member for many more! She actively participated on the Education and SOC committees and was a Unit coordinator. She is a Deputy Voter Registrar and a trained debate/forum moderator.

Joyce Haeckel. Joyce has been a member of LWVChicago for 11 years after relocating from Houston where she was also active in LWV. She has been the excellent LWVChicago webmaster since its launch in August 2007!

Carol Ziegeldorf. Carol has been an LWVChicago member for over 35 years. She was the LWVChicago office manager for 7 years, served as Unit leader for about 20 years and as a Board member. She is active on the Social Policy/Housing Committee.

Joan Morton. Joan has been an active member of the LWVChicago unit on the West Side for 36 years. She serves as Unit leader and often is the Unit presenter as well. She attends most of the Saturday briefing meetings, has volunteered in the LWVChicago office, participates in the Great Decisions program and is always a willing and able volunteer.

Tana Durnbaugh. Tana has been and continues to be Nominating Committee chair.

Greensfelder-Elam Award

This year the Greensfelder-Elam award for exemplary service to the League of Women Voters of Chicago was presented to Nancy Brandt. (See the photo previous page.)

Nancy has been a member of the League of Women Voters in Dayton, Ohio; Madison, Indiana; Highland Park, Illinois; and now the Chicago League. Since joining LWVChicago, Nancy has been on the League's Education Committee and has put in many hours meeting with legislators, members of the mayor's office and the Chicago Board of Education. Nancy's positive energy has moved the Education Committee's causes forward. Most recently, she and fellow Education Committee member Marcia Dillon met with Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner's Education Secretary Beth Purvis to present LWVChicago's proposal for creating an independent finance and audit committee for the Chicago Board of Education.

Nancy also has worked on the State of the City 2016 and 2017 Committees and reviewed the Chicago League's budget.

Her interests include state and local government, especially education funding. Nancy was on the school board in Highland Park, Illinois, helped found Protestants for the Common Good and served on the board of Community Renewal Society.

Nancy joins other Greensfelder-Elam award winners: Leslie Corbett-Chenowith, Emelda Estell, Bernice Fortini, Jan Flapan, Helene Gabelnick, Patricia Graunke, Margaret Herring, Esta Kallen, Annie Logue, Beverly Meyer, Joan Morton, Rochelle Riffer, Dorothy Scheff, Lois Snyder, Rae Sokolow, and Carol Ziegeldorf.

Membership

Membership Committee

The members of the Membership Committee have begun some new special Interest Groups.

Diversity in the League

seeks to make LWVChicago

reflect the diversity of the city. Civics in Middle Schools hopes to create a curriculum for Chicago middle schools. The Unit Restructuring Task Force (see the article below) is creating two new Units--one on the North Side and an additional Hyde Park Unit.

Be part of this creativity. You can take part in any of the new Interest Groups or come to the next Membership Committee meeting and hear what new ideas might be percolating! The Membership Committee will meet **Thursday, July 13, 6 pm**, at the League offices.

Please [RSVP](#) to be placed on the security list.



LWVChicago Unit Restructuring Task Force

The Membership Committee met on May 31, and the Unit Restructuring Task Force was formed. Jenny Grochowski, Helene Gabelnick, Pat Graunke and Marcia Dillon volunteered

to review and update Unit meetings which have been held downtown and in neighborhood settings after the monthly meeting or briefing on Saturday mornings and used to promote education, action and socialization at locations close to where members live.

The Task Force is evaluating Unit structure and locations because of recent changes. Membership increased significantly in 2016-2017, and it continues to rise (see the most recent list of New Members on page 6). The influx is altering League demographics and members' preferences. Members want more evening meetings and new Units in the south, west and north neighborhoods. They want Unit meetings to be gatherings where ideas related to the monthly meeting/briefing can be discussed and augmented by an additional reading, film or speaker who further explores the topic. Volunteers from each unit would develop the presentation and include additional topics if desired.

Unit meetings may be held in restaurants, bars, libraries or in the League office. Jenny Grochowski has studied where a concentration of our members live and has looked into various locations. At this time the League has the potential to form two new Units: one in Lincoln Square and one in Hyde Park.

In August "Find Your Unit" events will take place on different days and times. These will be strictly social, and members may attend more than one. They will offer the chance to look at locations, times and dates for future Unit meetings and obtain feedback on existing times and locations. Volunteers will always be needed for planning Unit activities. If you'd like to assist with activities, or see a new Unit formed, [send](#) your suggestions.

The Task Force will next meet on **July 17 at 6 pm** at a member's home. Please [RSVP](#). All current new Unit leaders are invited to this meeting to plan the first "Find Your Unit" social. Watch your email in the coming weeks to learn more.

Marcia Dillon



Alderman Interviews

If you and your fellow ward members haven't scheduled a meeting with your alderman, just do it! You'll learn a lot, and hopefully, so will your alderman. If you already have visited and interviewed your alderman, thank you! We will be compiling all of your reports and begin a study of how City Council is/isn't working. [Contact](#) the League office, League@LWVchicago.org or 312-939-5949, for more information.

CHICAGO IN



2017-2018

It's time to plan for the 7th season of **Chicago in Focus** programs, and you are invited to be part of the planning process! The planning meeting will be **Wednesday, July 18 at 6 pm** in the League conference room. This will be the only time we meet, and at this meeting we'll plan the entire season for 2017-18. Your thoughts and suggestions are needed! Help us make this an exciting and stimulating year for CiF! And we'll enjoy pizza and salad! Please [RSVP](#). If you are not planning to attend but have suggestions for speakers or topics please [let us know](#).

Pat Graunke



Communications Committee

A task force of the Committee has been focused lately on developing a new website,

which should be ready in mid-August. Watch for pictures! We need a few members willing to be “WebMavens” to keep the website current. Training will be provided. Come and get your Web-feet wet.

The Committee is also starting to work on improving our use of social media. Posting interesting items that show what we do is coming. We have to set up a plan for what, when and who will post.

Adding remote communications will make it easier for members to be involved from a distance, which would improve participation in all League activities and save time. Both phone and screen sharing options are in the works. And a member is looking into Mail Chimp, to better organize our mailings.

There are a number of other projects that we plan to get to this year: revamping the *Chicago Voter*, updating publications, videographing meetings, creating a new-member toolkit, collecting **herstories** from long-time Leaguers, and more. We are always looking for ways to tell the League’s great story better. If you are interested in joining us, please [contact](#) me!

Cathy Potkay



Drinks and Dialogue

On Wednesday, June 28, the League of Women Voters of Chicago held its first Drinks and Dialogue session at the Weather Mark Tavern.

Krista Grimm, President of the [League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region](#), introduced attendees to LWVLMR, which comprises all the Leagues that surround the lake, in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. This means that everyone in the Chicago League is already a member and welcome to volunteer on any LWVLMR projects. Krista explained that LWVLMR is actively involved in three advocacy efforts of interest to LWVChicago: (1) lobbying for restrictions on the use of coal tar sealants for pavement (attendees filled out post cards seeking Mayor Emanuel’s support for banning the sealants which release toxic compounds); (2) participating in the Shedd Aquarium’s plastic reduction project by, for instance, asking restaurants to stop using plastic straws and other items that may end up in Lake Michigan; (3) supporting the

Southeast Environmental Task Force which is working to reduce airborne manganese.

Krista also suggested Leaguers learn about LWVLMR’s watershed demonstration model, contact federal legislators about funding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and join the email list at [lwvlmr.org](#). Of course, it wasn’t all work. Fourteen League members and friends had some great conversations and shared ideas about issues affecting Chicago. And, the bar has a fun nautical theme and great service; so it was an interesting way to spend a Wednesday evening. We’ll be meeting again for Drinks and Dialogue soon!

Annie Logue

Chicago Public Schools Community Schools Initiative

Education Committee

The Education Committee is becoming involved in several projects. Members are planning to conduct research into school closings in Chicago as well as other large cities and looking at support services available to students.

The Committee continues to discuss the creation of an independent finance and audit committee for the Chicago Board of Education that would oversee financial statements, analyze contracts and ask hard questions.

Members also will review “community” schools. To join the discussions, which will next take place in the League office on July 5 at 10:00 am and 5:30 pm, email the office (League@lwvchicago.org) or call 312-939-5949.



Cook County LWV Lunch & Learn

On Tuesday, August 8, the Cook County League of Women Voters will host Mariyana Spyropoulos, President of the

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

Ms. Spyropoulos will explain why people of the city of Chicago and Cook County should care about the billion-dollar government few know anything about.

The fund-raiser will be held at DePaul Club, DePaul University Center, 1 E. Jackson Boulevard, 11th floor. The luncheon and discussion will begin at 11:30 am and end at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$35 per person, which includes a buffet lunch and a selection of hot or cold beverages. Proceeds support the LWVCookCounty Education Fund. See the flyer on page 8 of this *Chicago Voter* to register. Reservations must be made by August 2.

Voter Service

To begin to plan for LWVChicago activities related to the March 20, 2018 Primary Election, a Voter Service Task Force will meet on **Thursday, July 20, 6 pm** in the LWVChicago office.

We will discuss:

- Encouraging voter participation in the election
- Voter registration activities
 - High schools
 - Other venues
 - Partnering with other organizations
- Providing information about the election
- Scheduling candidate debates/forums
- Serving as an election judge
- Serving as a poll watcher

Please [RSVP](#). If you are not able to attend this meeting but have ideas or suggestions please [let us know](#).

Deputy Voter Registrar Training Classes

Schedule for DVR Training classes at the Chicago Board of Elections:

July 2017

Thursday, July 13 – 6:00 pm
Wednesday, July 19 – 3:00 pm
Saturday, July 29 – 9:30 am

August 2017

Thursday, August 3 – 6:00 pm
Wednesday, August 16 – 3:00 pm
Saturday, August 26 – 9:30 am

To be enrolled in one of the classes listed above you must be a registered voter in Chicago.

Please send an [email](#) the LWVChicago office at least **five days** before the scheduled class. Include your name, address, phone and email and specify the class you would like to attend.



On Line Voter Registration

[Register](#) to vote any time, anywhere with a smart phone or from your computer. This method

may 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

Welcome to New Members

*Alba Alexander
Marica Arduss
Peggy Barber
Monica Buckley
Pamela Calvert
Maureen Mooney
Carol Paulini
Lítricia Payne
Heather Penczak
Erin Reddy
Sara Schwanke
Anne Sharfman
Frederick Stewart
Hilary Snover
Sharon Welch
Rebecca Whitcomb
Wanda Whitson
Jill Willis*



Membership Dues

Members who owe dues for this fiscal year were sent dues notices about a month ago. If you've already paid your membership dues, **thank you!**

If not, the dues payment form is included on page 7. Please fill out the form and mail it in with your check or you may [pay](#) via the LWVChicago web site.

**Donation to the Tribune Fund
In Memory of Member
Helen Howie Hartman
From
Herbert and Carol Ziegeldorf**



LWV Chicago
2017-2018 MEMBERSHIP Form
A Year of Engagement

The League of Women Voters membership year begins July 1, 2017 and ends June 30, 2018. Last year we asked you to help make this year great – and you did! Our membership has greatly increased and attendance more than doubled at our events. We can take pride in our accomplishments this past year, but we need you to make next year even better! Annual membership dues are **\$75** for an Individual Membership and **\$120** for a Household Membership. (Included are LWVUS dues of \$31, Illinois dues of \$27, Cook County dues of \$4, for a total of \$62.)

Check your type of Membership

Individual Membership \$75 Household Membership \$120
In addition, I am adding a donation of \$_____

**Please make your check payable to LWV Chicago and return, with this form, to
LWV Chicago
332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 634
Chicago, IL 60604**

or

Use the “Renew Your Membership” tab on our website, LWVChicago.org.

To guarantee listing in the 2017-2018 Membership Directory, your renewal must be received by
September 30, 2017

Please review your information below and make any corrections or changes.

Name _____
Address _____
City state zip _____
Home phone _____ cell phone _____
Email address _____

Check to volunteer or assist with these committees or activities. By being involved, you can help make the League what you envision it to be.

____ Issues/Action	____ Great Decisions/Foreign Policy Discussions
____ Communications	____ Health
____ Education	____ Membership
____ Environment	____ Social Policy/Housing
____ Planning Programs	____ Voter Services

Specifically, my interests are _____



LUNCH & LEARN with The League of Women Voters of Cook County

a series of fundraising luncheons featuring speakers
talking about different aspects of government within Cook County

What is the billion dollar government most people know nothing about?

Come learn why you should care about the Metropolitan Water

Reclamation District

from

President Mariyana Spyropoulos

on

Tuesday, August 8, 11:30 am to 1 pm

DePaul Club, DePaul University Center, 11th floor

1 E. Jackson (corner of State Street and Jackson), Chicago

(walk through the Barnes & Noble store to reach the elevators to the 11th floor)

cost: \$35 per person (includes buffet lunch and hot and cold drinks)

*Proceeds benefit The League of Women Voters of Illinois Education Fund,
a Section 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization*

**Please complete and mail the following form with your check to
Priscilla Mims, 225 N. Columbus Drive, Unit 6508, Chicago, IL 60601**

Questions? Call Pris at 312-861-0166

LWVCC August 8 Lunch & Learn with the League – *Reservations due by Wed., Aug. 2*

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

League (if applicable): _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ (_____ reservations @ \$35 each) made out to The League of Women Voters of Illinois Education Fund or LWVIL Ed Fund.

Mail to: Priscilla Mims, 225 N. Columbus Drive, Unit 6508, Chicago, IL 60601.