

## **Annual Meeting**

League of Women Voters  
Oak Park & River Forest  
May 28, 2019  
Oak Park Township Senior Room  
130 S. Oak Park Ave.  
5:30 PM Business Meeting

# 2019

**League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest  
95th Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, May 28, 2019**

***Following the business agenda of our Annual Meeting,  
we will supply a light supper. This will be followed by our guest  
speaker, LWV IL President Bonnie Cox.***



Bonnie Cox is President of LWV IL. She has been a LWV member since helping to found a local league in Jo Daviess County (IL) over 35 years ago. She is a founding member of the LWV-Upper Mississippi River Region InterLeague Organization and feels honored to be serving as President of the LWV Illinois.

Bonnie is retired from a career as a teacher and mental health therapist. She was active in her husband's two campaigns for U.S. Congress (one successful and one not!) That experience has reinforced her preference for the nonpartisan education and advocacy work of the LWV over partisan electoral politics.

Bonnie and her husband John reside in Galena, IL. They have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

# Agenda

Call to Order	Marge Massarello
Disposition of the Minutes of 2017 Annual Meeting	Marge Massarello
President's Report	Marge Massarello
Treasurer's Report	Sarah Shirk
Budget Proposal 2018-2019	Sarah Shirk
Bylaws Committee Report	Marge Massarello
Committee Reports	Marge Massarello
Local Program Report	Marge Massarello
Presentation of Proposed Local Programs 2018-2019	
Presentation of Program Efforts 2017-2018	
Nominations and Elections	Kathy Balk
Presentations and Proposed Nominations	
Nominations from the floor	
Elections of Officers and Directors	
Recognition of Past Presidents, Lifetime Members and Past Hazel Hanson Award Recipients	Mary Haley
Presentation of Hazel Hanson Award	Mary Haley
Meeting Adjournment and Photo Opportunity	Beverly Graham
Post Business Meeting Speaker - LWVIL President Bonnie Cox	

## Proposed Rules of 2019 Annual Meeting

1. Only members of the League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest may vote.
  2. Only voting members may address the meeting. A member wishing to speak must rise, be recognized by the chair, and give her or his name and League position, if held.
  3. During debate on a motion, no person may speak more than once until all others who wish to speak have been heard. After the original presentation, debate shall be limited to one minute for each speaker.
  4. No announcements shall be made which do not relate to the business of the meeting or the welfare of the members.
  5. Procedure for adoption of local program shall be:
    - a. Recommended items shall be moved for adoption by the Vice President or the Co-President.
    - b. Motion for consideration of any non-recommended items shall be made (majority vote).
    - c. Debate on recommended and non-recommended items shall then be held (items may be amended at this time).
    - d. Recommended items shall be voted upon in their entirety (majority vote).
    - e. Non-recommended items shall be voted on individually (two-thirds vote required).
  6. Business of the Annual Meeting shall be further governed by those procedures outlined in *Simplified Parliamentary Procedure* based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
  7. These rules may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting.
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**LWVOPRF Budget  
2019-2020**

<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Annual Dues (\$70 X 200)	14,000	14,000
Member Contributions	2,000	2,075
Great Decisions Book Sales	800	1,000
Garden Sale/Local Chapter Fundraisers	500	500
Interest from CD (Note: Rate increase to 2.5%)	100	425
State of the Villages Fundraiser	10,000	0
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>27,400</b>	<b>18,000</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
Annual Meeting	500	500
Communications-League Matters/Week-in-Preview	500	500
Communications-Website/Facebook	500	500
Delegate Fees- Cook County	210	150
Delegate Fees- State Issues Briefing	750	750
Delegate Fees- Inter League Organizations	200	200
Delegate Fees- State or National Convention	1,000	1,000
Committee Projects- Advocacy	200	200
Committee Projects- Children/Youth/MOFP	300	900
Committee Projects- Environment	300	500
Committee Projects- Great Decisions	200	200
Committee Projects- Observers	50	50
Committee Projects- Second Tuesday	300	300
Committee Projects- Speakers	250	250
Committee Projects- Studies	100	100
Member Services-Directory	400	400
Events- Fall Kick-Off	100	100
Events- Holiday Social	1,000	1,000
Events- New Member Breakfast & Outreach	600	600
Events- Hazel Hanson Award	100	100
Events- Drinks & Dialogue	500	500
Board Training	500	500
Computer Expenses	100	100
Treasurer Expenses	100	100
Dues Subsidy- Scholarship/Sliding scale	70	70
Insurance	110	110
Meeting Room Rental & Refreshments	200	200
PayPal or Square Transaction Fees	100	300
Miscellaneous	200	100
Phone-Voicemail	100	100
Printing + Photocopies	200	200
Postage + Post Office Box	400	400
Supplies-letterhead/envelopes	400	400
Memberships	50	120
PMP LWV Cook County	800	0
PMP LWVIL 3/4	4,500	4,500
PMP LWVUS 1/2	3,200	3,200
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>19,590</b>	<b>19,200</b>

<b>EDUCATION FUND EXPENSES</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Advertising	0	500
Citizen Education	125	200
Great Decisions Books	820	1,000
Insurance	40	40
Speakers	100	100
Video Recording	500	500
Voter Service	400	400
Events- Fall Kick-Off	100	100
Events- Drinks & Dialogue	500	500
Fundraising Expense-SOV	500	100
PMP-LWVIL 1/4	1,500	1,500
PMP-LWVUS 1/2	3,200	3,200
Early Childhood Resource Directory (printed in odd years)	0	1,000
<b>Total Ed Fund Expenses</b>	<b>7,785</b>	<b>9,140</b>

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Community Bank CD 2.5% Interest Rate Maturity Date 5/27/20	<b>16,738</b>
Community Bank Checking Account	<b>9,825</b>
LWV-IL Ed Fund OPRF Account	<b>14,482</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>41,045</b>

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## **By-Laws Committee Report**

**The recommended 2019-2020 changes to the By-laws were sent via separate email to all members. They will be displayed during the Annual Meeting for discussion.**

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## **Committee Reports**

Once again, the League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest had a year full of accomplishments due to the leadership of our Board and Committee chairs. Members contributed their time, wisdom, and passion to ensure the League's mission of encouraging citizens to be informed and active participants in local, state and national government was accomplished. Below are committee reports that summarize the many accomplishments of the 2018-19 program year. Each and every committee played a part in helping our membership continue to be one of the largest Leagues in Illinois. These voices combined will help increase understanding of public policy issues and hopefully make an impact in our local community, our state, and our nation.

### **Committee Report Highlights for 2017-18**

#### **Advocacy - Chairperson Diane Moses**

Our team visited:

Senator Don Harmon on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Representative LaShawn Ford on March 9, 2019, Representative Camille Lilly on March 16, 2019, and in partnership with the LaGrange League, met with Rep. Emanuel Welch on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We have a meeting scheduled with Senator Kimberly Lightford on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Notes of these meetings have been sent to Peggy Kell, Jeanne Pierce and Fran Thompson.

Our talented team has included:

Kathy Nesburg, Carolyn Skipper, Fran Sampson, Jane Hastings, Marilyn Thomas, Bev Graham, Sandra Sokol, Judith McDavitt, Kathy Balk, Patty Rocco (LaGrange), Krista Grimm (LaGrange)

#### **Archives – Chairperson Johan Walsh**

Files were reviewed, reduced and consolidated on Oak Park and River Forest elections and candidate forums going back to 2002. A number of State of the Village event files were also reviewed and reduced. These files will be moved to the League's archives at the OP/RF Historical Society and the written inventory updated.

A 2002 publication "Successful Forums, Planning and Moderating" published by LWV-IL was sent to LWV-IL for their disposition. An oversized collection of state and federal voting district maps for 1993-2002 was disposed.

A collection of LWV-OP/RF membership directories going back to 1989-1990 was gratefully obtained from member Ann Bolan. These annual directories provide a permanent and comprehensive record of League leadership, membership, programs and policies, and will be compared against the existing inventory.

Reports from Archives were presented to the Board at the September, November and March meetings.

## **Communications- Sarah Shirk, Peggy Kell, Leigh Eicher**

Communications Committee has made an intentional effort to engage our community (both current members and the general public) with social media tools. Our website gets consistent visitor traffic of 800-900 views per month. Our Week-in-Preview goes to all members each Monday and has a 48-53% open rate. All monthly League Matters Newsletters and Week in Previews are also posted on our website for quick reference. Facebook traffic records indicate an increase of activity from non-members, especially during the election season. Total "Likes" on FaceBook are currently 662 with 718 users following our page, indicating that this outreach tool is reaching well beyond the membership base.

## **Drinks & Dialogue - Chairpersons Leslie Lauderdale, Maureen McLachlan**

Drinks & Dialogue is a monthly evening social event in a casual public atmosphere. Based on League priorities and current issues, we invite a knowledgeable speaker to make a brief presentation which is followed by Q&A and discussion. Topic, speaker and date are promoted via the LWVOPRF website calendar, in email blasts, and with Facebook Events.

This program year we explored new venues, partnered with local agencies and organizations, and provided "more than headline news" educational opportunities. Our attendance varied from 8 to 35 with an average of 15 attendees.

Following the September ("Today's Threats to Voter Rights") kick-off event shared with Second Tuesday, D&D attendees engaged in the following topics:

Oct 2018

David Pope, chair of the Taxing Bodies Efficiency Task Force

The task force report was finished only days before and Mr. Pope provided Leaguers a first look at the complete report and its recommendations.

Nov 2018

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

Brenda Parker, Board Member of CGLA presented the work of CGLA regarding the effects of incarceration and criminal records in families and communities. <https://www.cgla.net/>

Jan 2019

Susan MacLean, member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and Immigration Attorney from Zulkie Partners

Spoke about the business implications of recent changes in interpretation of immigration law.

<https://www.zulkiepartners.com/team/susan-maclean/>

Feb 2019

Drew Curle

Supervisory Attorney for Chicago Legal Clinics, Austin Office

Spoke about sealing and expungement of records. <https://clclaw.org/get-legal-help/>

March 2019

Megan Traficano, Youth Services Director; Kelly O'Connor, Prevention Outreach Coordinator; and Clarmarie Keenan, Township Supervisor spoke about Township Youth Services programs, the Positive Youth Development coalition (which deals with substance abuse and substance use), and the commitment of the Township to enhancing the quality of life for our more vulnerable residents.

April 2019

Assessed this year's venues, topics, and speakers. Discussed ideas and topics for next year. Welcomed and introduced the 2019/2020 D&D Chairs.

## **Environment – Chairpersons Marsha Borders, Beverly Graham**

The Environment Committee has been forging ahead with the goal of working toward the elimination of single use plastic and other non-recyclable waste in restaurants in Oak Park. Partnering with Andrea Densham, Program Director of the Shedd Aquarium, and Stephen Morales, Commissioner on the Environment and Energy Commission of the Village of Oak Park, committee members have contacted 25 restaurants in the village, encouraging them to work toward providing straws “upon request” and changing over to aluminum or paper take out containers. A number of them, as well as other restaurants we have not yet contacted, have already made significant progress.

We gained support from the Village Trustees when we did a presentation on the topic at a Village Board Meeting. Andrea and Stephen both stressed the importance of the issue; Beverly Graham, and Marsha Borders, Committee Co-Chairs, represented the LWV. Although the Trustees did not favor a hard line, they encouraged us to continue our work.

In partnering with the Chamber of Commerce, we met with Liz Holt, and had a table at “Bite Nite” at the Nineteenth Century Club in January where we were able to speak with restaurant owners and patrons.

Our latest venture is “Plastic Free July”, a kickoff for the summer, which will exemplify the League’s mission of educating the public. As part of our publicity, Dan Haley of the Wednesday Journal has offered to provide free ad space, report out a news story on this effort, and 20,000 digital ad impressions during July with a link to our website. Committee member Leigh Eicher is posting our information on our FaceBook Page, and Peggy Kell is including our progress in the weekly update.

We recently participated in Earth Fest, the annual gathering of eco-friendly organizations, where we reached out to attendees whose environmental concerns are paramount.

## **Fundraising – Chairperson Beverly Graham**

Shop N Share days were held at the Good Earth Greenhouse in May 2018. We thank them for helping provide an enjoyable time for shopping while raising money for our League. This year’s Shop N Share date will be May 17-19. We receive 10% of sales from members/friends with the coupon on those days. The coupon can be printed from our website.

## **State of the Villages Event – Mary Haley, Kathy Balk, Joan Petertil**

The State of the Villages luncheon took place on March 2 at the Koehneke Community Center on the Concoridia University Campus. This biennial fundraiser was a success, raising more than \$8700. Attendees enjoyed a chance to talk with candidates for Oak Park and River Forest boards, had a delicious meal and heard from President Cathy Adduci and Mayor Anan Abu -Taleb about issues the villages are facing.

While the event was financially successful, the SOV committee is concerned about the future of the event. The number of people who bought tickets was down significantly from past years with only 40 members buying tickets. Overall only 81 tickets were sold. Perhaps the time has come to rethink this tradition. Committee members are interested in hearing from League members about the future of the SOV. If you would like to share your thoughts, please contact one of the committee members. They are: Kathy Balk, Marilyn Cantisano, Mary Haley, Peggy Kell, Marge Massarello, Joan Petertil, Barbara Smith and Mary Walsh.

## **International Relations –Chairpersons Alex Matthews, Maria Jepson**

The International Relations committee sponsored the Great Decisions program again this year. The discussions were held at three locations: Maze Library, Brookdale Senior Living, and the River Forest Community Center. Between 35 and 40 people have been regular attendees. The topics being discussed this year include Refugees and Global Migration; Middle East; Regional Disorder; Nuclear Negotiations; Populism in Europe; Decoding United States--China Trade; Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics; The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested; The State of the State Department and American Diplomacy.

The committee thanks Ann Marohn (Brookdale), the River Forest Library Staff and the rotating leaders at Maze Library for facilitating the discussions.

## **League Matters – Editor Peggy Kell**

The League Matters newsletter continues to be sent out the first Monday of the month via email. We mail out copies to about 8 members. The newsletter is also posted on our website. Constant Contact allows us to gauge our members readership and also permits us to send out surveys and invites. We get a pretty consistent open rate of about 49% for our WIP and newsletter. Are you getting the newsletter on the first Monday of the month? Are you getting the Week in Preview emails the other Mondays? If you can't find your copy, go to our website to check out archived copies.

## **Membership Development - Chairperson Mary Haley**

In January, the committee hosted a coffee for old and new members. Our speakers were Kathy Nesburg, a League member, and State Senator Kimberly Lightford. They encouraged members to actively participate in supporting League positions as issues come before the General Assembly. Day in Our Village was another outreach event for the League. Our booth in Scoville Park attracted people interested in learning more about us. We will have a booth again this year on June 2.

The committee is working to find more ways to increase League membership, participation and diversity. If you are interested in helping the League do this, please consider joining this committee.

## **Observers – Chairperson Mary Haley**

The LWVOPRF provided observers at school board meetings in District 90, District 97 and District 200. The committee was not able to send observers to meetings of the Oak Park Public Library, the Village of Oak Park Trustees, the Oak Park Park District, the River Forest Village Board, the River Forest Library or the River Forest Park District.

The number of members who open the reports through Week in Preview/League Matters remains low. Thanks to Ameri Klafeta, Kathleen Perry and Diana Shea for their work.

## **Second Tuesday –Chairpersons Glynne Gervais, Stephen Jordan, Judith McDevitt**

It's again been a busy year with seven presentations. Our biggest event was the 2018-19 kickoff September 19 at the Oak Park Library in partnership with Drinks & Dialogue. We continued with six more events on topics of local and regional interest, with most related to League focus areas or program positions. We will conclude the program year with a Coffee and Conversation wrap-up on May 14. We are hoping for members' feedback and suggestions for topics and speakers for next year.

For 2019-20, Glynne Gervais will be retiring after many years of arranging great programs, as will Stephen Jordan. Judith McDevitt will continue, welcoming Jane Hastings as co-chair and with the assistance of Joan Fiscella and Agatha Gallo.



Topics in 2018-19 were:

- September 2018: **Today's Threats to Voter Rights: What's at Stake?** A Community Forum held at the Oak Park Public Library. Panelists were Ami Gandhi, Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights; Andy Kang, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Chicago; Edwin Yohnka, ACLU Illinois; and Jan Dorner, League of Women Voters Illinois.
- October 2018: **Shedd the Straw: What Together We Can Do.** Organized by Beverly Graham and Marsha Borders. LWV OPRF Environmental Committee, with Marynda Agnew, Village of Oak Park Sustainability Coordinator. (Environment\*)
- November 2018: **Imagine OPRF: A Conversation with Lynn Kamenitsa and Mike Poirier**, co-chairs of the Imagine OPRF team tasked with drafting the D200 facilities master plan and its vision for solving problems in a prioritized and cost-effective way. (Education\*)
- January 2019: **Success of All Youth: Year 2** (Linda Francis, Success of All Youth, OPRF Community Foundation) (Education; Human Relations\*)
- February 2019: **Gun Responsibility Advocates.** Sandra Shimon and Ray Heise spoke on the 2018 nonbinding referendum GRA sponsored in Oak Park to require safe gun storage for all residents that was endorsed by 93% of voters. (Timely Issue\*\*)
- March 2019: **"Spring Break"** for the Nineteenth Century Charitable Association's redecorating efforts involving the first floor (no Second Tuesday).
- April 2019: **Let Forest Park Vote Political Action Committee** with Kris McCoy and Michelle Fitz-Henry. In the November 2018 election, Forest Park Voters repealed video gaming, the culmination of a six-year effort to put the issue on the ballot for voters to express their views. (Timely Issue\*\*)
- May 2019: **Coffee and Conversation program year wrap up.** We will invite this year's attendees and interested others to return and provide their feedback and suggestions for the 2019-20 program year. (Encourage Participation in League activities\*\*)

\*LWV OPRF Program Position.

\*\*LWV OPRF Focus/Priority (timely issues; encouraging member engagement).

We thank the Nineteenth Century Charitable Association and the Oak Park Library for providing meeting space in support of our programs.

## **Voter Service – Chairperson Peggy Kell**

We did Voter Registration weekly at the Oak Park Food Pantry starting in August. Low registration but good visibility. We also registered voters at Dominican University. In October, we had a presentation by Attorney Greg Smith on "Getting and Staying on the Ballot", though once again this had very low attendance. Starting in February, we held candidate forums in Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park. We had great attendance at all these events. The Forest Park Mayoral/Commissioner Forum had over 120 people attend. We plan on including more Forest Park forums in the future. On election day, April 2, nine members visited almost all the precincts in Oak Park and River Forest to obtain feedback from election judges on the new voting equipment. Oak Park and River Forest were test sites for the new equipment. We did this with just four days notice. What a great group of committee members!

**League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest**  
**Program Positions are listed in our directory**

**Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters**  
**Proposed Program 2019-2020**

Focus/Priority

- *Improve local League website, electronic, and media communications to serve as a resource to foster transparency and participation in government.*
  - Recorded all membership information in local and US databases.
  - Continued publication of weekly email and monthly newsletters to members.
  - Continued weekly updates to website with calendar, observer reports, upcoming events and photos
  - Made League Directory available in digital form
- *Develop programs/speakers on timely issues as suggested by the Board of Directors or other members.*
  - Discussions of foreign policy issues through Great Discussions.
  - Organized speakers on topics such as Today's Threat to Voter's Rights and Women and Incarceration.
  - Held Second Tuesday and Drinks & Dialogue free public forums on topics related to LWV-OPRF's 2018-2019 Program and Program Positions.
- *Continue our voter service efforts to register and provide information to voters.*
  - Organized program on how to get and stay on the ballot. Powerpoint posted on the website.
  - Partnered with other organizations to promote Deputy Registrar training.
  - Organized high school voter registration drives at Dominican University and OP Food Pantry
  - Held 6 candidate forums in Oak Park and River Forest for contested races. Held first candidate forum in Forest Park for Mayoral/Commissioner Candidates.
  - On April 2 Municipal Election Day, canvassed all precincts in Oak Park and River Forest on new election equipment.
- *Expand membership and encourage participation in League activities through social media and informal social gatherings.*
  - Welcomed 21 new members since August 2018.
  - Recruited new members through Drinks and Dialogues and Second Tuesday public forums.
  - Members Coffee held in January 2019.
  - Had booth at Day in Our Village (2018) to increase visibility in the community and to recruit new members.
- *Encourage participation and engage all members in League advocacy and priorities.*
  - Met with Rep. Lilly, Rep. Ford, Rep. Welch, Sen. Lightford and Sen. Harmon
  - Offered a mentoring program to all new members.

- Sent a Welcome Packet to all new members that included membership directory and an opportunity to indicate their interests. This had been followed up by contact by the appropriate resource person and/or committee chair.
- *Partner with other community organizations to accomplish shared goals and to increase League visibility.*
  - Participated with Shedd Aquarium in the *Shedd the Straw* program.
  - Promoted other organizations events, i.e. Forest Park Library Rethinking the Electoral College, District 97 CLAIM Legislative Committee panel discussion, and OPRF HS Detecting Teen's Risky Behavior.
  - Participated in the Forest Park May Day Celebration.
  - Partnered with WTTW and Oak Park Public Library to show the film "Dark Money".

#### Continuous/ Revised

- *Promote LWVIL tax and school finance positions within our communities and convene studies and discussions of local economic issues as needed.*
- *Provide support for the environment including sustainability and attention to water as a precious resource.*
  - Contacted over a dozen OP/RF restaurants to participate in the *Shedd the Straw* program.
  - Cosponsored *One Earth Film Festival*.
  - Participated in EarthFest in Oak Park.
  - Developed a Plastics Free July Program for this summer.
- *Continue to be the eyes and ears of our communities by strengthening our Observers Corps.*
- *Maintain our involvement in coalitions to improve well-being of youth.*
  - Second Tuesday forums presented programs on education and youth during the 2018-19 year.
- *Support archival development and oral history.*
  - A number of files were reviewed, reduced, and consolidated pending relocation to the Historical Society.
  - LWV-IL material held in Oak Park was transferred to the LWV-IL.
- *Encourage and educate women on how to run for elected office.*

# League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest

## Proposed Nominations for 2019-20

### **President**

Beverly Graham 2019-2021

### **Vice Presidents**

Kathy Balk 2018-2020

Mary Haley 2018-2020

Joan Petertil 2019-2021

### **Secretary**

Johan Walsh 2019-2021

### **Treasurer**

Sarah Shirk 2018-2020

### **Directors**

Leigh Eicher 2018-2020

Joan Fiscella 2018-2020

Michelle Fitz-Henry 2019-2021

Carolyn Skipper 2019-2021

Fran Sampson 2018-2020

Judith McDevitt 2019-2021

**Committee Chairs: For 2019-2021 to be appointed by the Board for one year terms. Chairs may be appointed multiple times.**

Administration

Advocacy

Archives

Children and Youth

Communication

Drinks and Dialogue

Environment

Fundraising

Fundraising 2021 SOV

International Relations

League Matters

LWV-Cook Liaison

LWV-Lake Michigan Liaison

Membership Development

Membership Recording

Nominating Committee

Observers

Second Tuesday

Voter Services

Peggy Kell

Diane Moses

Johan Walsh

Claraine Camper

Peggy Kell, Sarah Shirk, Leigh Eicher

Suzanne Isaacson, Candace Enockson, Julianne Bonwit

Marsha Border, Beverly Graham

Beverly Graham

Vice Presidents

Alex Matthews, Marie Jepson

Peggy Kell

Sarah Shirk

Mary Haley

Leigh Eicher

Joan Petertil

Ameri Klafeta

Jane Hastings, Judith McDevitt

Peggy Kell

Standing Committees to be appointed by the Board of Directors:

By-Laws, Financial Review, Political Activity Policy

## LWV MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



## **Marge Massarello 2019 Hazel Hanson Award Winner**

I hadn't voted in a Presidential election yet, when I heeded the call from Charles Evers, brother of assassinated civil rights activist Medgar Evers, to volunteer to register voters in Clarksdale, Mississippi in 1971. With a small group of friends from UW - Whitewater, we spent our spring break in awe over the passion and determination of these new voters. We first had to calm their fears of fees, questioning and physical harm at the registration centers. After this experience I made a commitment to vote in every election.

I joined the League of Women Voters because of its mission of progressive policies to advocate and educate. I wasn't very active initially but did some poll watching (quite an eye opener) and attended various events. I worked on the state pension study. Peggy Kell asked me to fill a vice-president vacancy on the Board and continued in the VP position until I assumed the the president position in 2017. It has been a challenging and fulfilling adventure. I have been active in membership committee, nominating committee and voter services. I have served on three State of the Villages committees. Although I am leaving the Board, I will continue to be an active member of the League.

I was asked to represent our League on OP-RF Museum Centenary Celebration of the 19th Amendment program. I am also a member of the LVWVIL Centennial Committee. We are developing plans for the 2020 celebration of our 100th Anniversary. I also write monthly articles about the history of woman suffrage and the League for the LWVIL newsletter.

My husband, Jim, and I and our St. Bernard moved to Oak Park in 1974. With several fellow renters and friends on Washington Boulevard, we took tenant law classes at John Marshall Law School. We worked with the Community Relations Department and developed a Tenants' Rights Handbook. As part of "Friends of Grass" we stopped District 97 from blacktopping the entire land around Hawthorne (Julian) School. I was on the Farmers Market Commission for several years. I spent my last 25 teaching years in first grade at Irving School in Oak Park and served on many District Committees. I am a volunteer at the Conservatory. We love to travel, especially to Italy, attend theater and music performances, read, garden and make award winning wine.

I am honored to be given the Hazel Hanson Award and request that the funds be designated as a donation to the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation.

