

Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters
Oak Park & River Forest
May 23, 2017
Oak Park Township Senior Room
130 S. Oak Park Ave.
5:30 PM Business Meeting

2017

League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest
93rd Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Following the business agenda of our Annual Meeting, we will supply a light supper. This will be followed by a presentation by Dr. Susan Kern, who will be speaking on the Cook County Hospital System: Is it Sustainable?



Susan Kern, MD, is an LWV IL Board member, and has served as a LWV CC observer for the Cook County Health and Hospital Board meetings for many years. She is a retired physician who served as President and elected officer of the Medical Staff for 4 years at Northwest Community Hospital & Healthcare in Arlington Heights. She has been active in leadership positions in Chicago and Illinois Medical Societies and has been a Palatine Township Trustee.

Agenda

Call to Order	Marge Massarello
Adoption of Annual Meeting Rules (pg.3)	Marge Massarello
Disposition of the Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting	Johan Walsh
Treasurer's Report (pg. 3)	Sarah Shirk
Budget Proposal 2017-18 (pg. 4)	Sarah Shirk
President's Report	Marge Massarello
Motion to Approve LWV OPRF Conversion to 501(c)(3)	Peggy Kell
Bylaws Committee Report (pg. 5)	Marge Massarello
Committee Reports (pg. 5-8)	Marge Massarello
Local Program Report (pg. 9) Presentation of Proposed Local Program for 2017-18	Marge Massarello
Nominations and Elections (pg. 10) Presentations and Proposed Nominations Nominations from the floor Election of Officers and Directors	Marge Massarello
Meeting Adjournment & Board Photo Opportunity	Marge Massarello
Recognition of Past Presidents, Lifetime Members and Past Hazel Hanson Award Recipients	Marge Massarello
Presentation of Hazel Hanson Award (pg. 11)	Marilyn Cantisano

Proposed Rules of 2017 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.

Treasurer's Report as of April 24, 2017

Operating Accounts

Community Bank Checking	\$ 8,431
Community Bank CD (1)	\$ 16,438
Education Fund	\$ 26,191
Total Funds	\$ 51,060

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Shirk, Treasurer

LWVOPRF Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

OPERATING INCOME	
Annual Dues (\$60 X 220)	13,200
Member Contributions	2,000
Great Decisions Book Sales	820
Garden Sale	500
Interest from CD's	100
Total Operating Income	16,620
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Annual Meeting	500
Communications-League Matters/Week-in-Preview	500
Communications-Website/Facebook	500
Delegate Fees- Cook County	210
Delegate Fees- State Issues Briefing	450
Delegate Fees- Lake Michigan Region Meeting	150
Delegate Fees- National Convention June 2018	1,000
Education- Advocacy	200
Education- Observers	50
Committee Projects- Children & Youth	300
Committee Projects- Environment	300
Committee Projects- Great Decisions	200
Committee Projects- Speakers	250
Committee Projects- Studies	100
Member Services-Directory	400
Events- Fall Kick-Off	100
Events- Holiday Social	1,000
Events- New Member Breakfast & Outreach	600
Events- Hazel Hanson Award	100
Events- Drinks & Dialogue	500
Board Training	500
Computer Expenses	100
Treasurer Expenses	100
Dues Subsidy- Scholarship/Sliding scale	120
Filing Fee for 501c3	1,000
Insurance	125
Meeting Room Rental & Refreshments	200
PayPal or Square Transaction Fees	200
Miscellaneous	200
Office Work	1,000
Phone-Voicemail	100
Printing + Photocopies	200
Postage + Post Office Box	250
Supplies-letterhead/envelopes	400
ILO Membership UMRR	75
ILO Membership Lake Michigan Region	75
PMP LWV Cook County	880
PMP LWVIL 3/4	4,950
PMP LWVUS 1/2	3,520
Total Operating Expenses	21,405

EDUCATION FUND INCOME	
Member Contributions	3,000
Interest from Ed Fund	3
Total Education Fund Income	3,003

EDUCATION FUND EXPENSES	
Citizen Education	125
Committee Projects- Great Decisions	820
Insurance	125
Speakers	100
Video Recording	500
Voter Service	100
Events- Fall Kick-Off	100
Events- Drinks & Dialogue	500
Events-State-of-the-Villages	500
PMP-LWVIL 1/4	1,650
PMP-LWVUS 1/2	3,520
Early Childhood Resource Directory	2,000
Total Ed Fund Expenses	10,040
Balance Sheet as of May 1, 2017	
ASSETS	
Community Bank CD	16,438
Community Bank NOW Account - Checking	8,431
LWVIL Ed Fund LWV-OPRF	26,191
Total ASSETS	51,060
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Opening Balance Equity	40,718
Net Income	10,342
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	51,060

By-Laws Committee Report Marge Massarello and Gail Bien

Recommended Changes were sent via email to all members in the May 1 Newsletter

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 2016-17 program year. Each and every committee played a part in helping our membership to grow into the largest League 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 2016-17

Advocacy - Chairperson Diane Moses

The Advocacy Committee met with Representative Lilly, Representative Emmanuel Chris Welch, Senator Harmon, and Senator Lightford.

We have a meeting scheduled with Representative Ford on May 3rd.

We found that our Senators and Representatives are very concerned with helping and "doing the right thing."

We thank the following people who have gone on these visits:

Beverly Graham, Carolyn Skipper, Kathy Balk, Mary Ann Mohanraj, Marsha Borders, Krista Grimm from LaGrange, Mary Klonoski from LaGrange, Sandra Sokol, Mary Rose Lambke, and Fran Sampson.

It was great to team with representatives from the LaGrange League.

Archives – Chairperson Johan Walsh

The Archives Committee supports archival development and oral history of LWVOPRF and continues to collaborate with the Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest to store and maintain the LWVOPRF archive.

Children's and Youth Issues – Chairperson Michelle Mbekeani-Wiley

Communications- Sarah Shirk, Marissa Garza, Alyssa Ralston, Peggy Kell

Communications Committee has made an intentional effort to engage our community (both current members and the general public) with social media tools. Over the summer, a subcommittee made up of Ann Bolan, Heather Cunningham, Peggy Kell, and Sarah Shirk created a new LWVOPRF website using the Weebly platform. New website went live in September 2016. Week-in-Preview is a Constant Contact newsletter that goes to all members each Monday. Appre-

ciation is given to Peggy Kell for editing both the weekly newsletter and more extensive monthly League Matters. New committee members Alyssa Ralston and Marissa Garza have stepped up to manage LWVOPRF Instagram and FaceBook accounts. Facebook traffic records indicate an increase of activity from non-members, especially during the election season. Total "Likes" on FaceBook are currently over 440, indicating that this outreach tool is reaching well beyond the membership base. Committee is considering website expansion with possible Podcasts in the future.

Drinks & Dialogue - Chairpersons Susan Stall, Heather Cunningham

Each D&D Program was at Skrine Chops House, Forest Park, from 5:30-7:00 pm.

The D & D Programs over the past 8 months included:

September, 2016

Peggy Kell, Moderator

OPRF High School Pool Referendum

October, 2016

Lisa Tipton

Seven Point Medical Cannabis Dispensary, OP

January, 2017

Kristin McCoy

Video Gambling in Forest Park

February, 2017

Vicki Scaman

Underage Drinking in Oak Park

Challenges to Positive Youth Development

March, 2017

Ariel Groner

Juniper Center

Trans & Queer Youth and their Families

April, 2017

Lucia Whalen

Environmental Advocate & Climate Reality Leader

May, 2017

Robert Haisman, Indivisible Oak Park Area

Beverly Graham, LWVOPRF

Modes of Political Activism

They were all well attended and the presentations provoked wonderful dialogue.

Environment – Chairperson Marsha Borders

Once again the committee collaborated with the Green Community Connections to financially support and publicize the One Earth Film Festival 2017. The film "Before the Flood" was shown on May 17, followed by a discussion on climate change.

Fundraising – Chairperson Beverly Graham

Shop N Share days were held at two businesses in the area. We thank the Good Earth Greenhouse and Camille Et Famille for helping provide an enjoyable time for shopping while raising money for our League.

State of the Villages Event – Chairpersons Mary Walsh, Marge Massarello

Another successful biennial fundraising event was held on Saturday, March 11, 2017, at Elmcrest Banquet Hall in Elmwood Park. Over 132 people attended and \$11,562.75 was raised for our League.

International Relations –Chairpersons Jean Peterman, Carolyn DeCoursey

The committee organized and promoted three Great Decisions discussion groups at three different locations and times from February to May. Thank you to Ann Marohn for hosting the Tuesday afternoon group at Brookdale and to the River Forest Library staff for hosting the group at the River Forest Library on Tuesday evenings. The Thursday afternoon group met at the Maze Library with Jean Peterman. Group attendance was anywhere from 7-40 per session with 37 briefing books ordered and sold.

League Matters – Editor Peggy Kell

The League Matters newsletter continues to be sent out the first Monday of the month via email. We still do mail out copies to about 10 members. The newsletter is also posted on our website. This platform allows us to gauge our members readership and also permits us to send out surveys and invites. Are you getting the newsletter on the first Monday of the month? Are you getting the Week in Preview emails the other Mondays?

Membership Development - Chairpersons Marilyn Cantisano, Donalda Ellek

The Membership Committee has had a very busy year. The League has welcomed 50 new members since August 2016. Last year we made an effort to contact each new member to personally welcome them to our organization. We also established a mentoring program whereby current members phoned or emailed new members to act as their resource person and to help them become involved in our local League. Every new member now receives a personal email welcoming them to the League. They also receive a Welcome Packet, which includes the membership directory. In the email they are asked if they would like a current member to contact them and if so, a resource person is given their name. We would like to thank all the current members who have acted as a resource person to a new member—Kathy Balk, Linda Bauer, Rhonda Bernstein, Ann Bolan, Ann Courter, Heather Cunningham, Joan Fiscella, Beverly Graham, Mary Haley, Peggy Kell, Ann Marohn, Marge Massarello, Mary Cay Murray, Jackie Paine, Joan Petertil, Sarah Shirk, Sandra Sokol and Johan Walsh. Many of these people have also given time and input to the Membership Committee.

The Committee has held two Member Meetings this past year. Our September Kick Off on 9/20/2016 was attended by 42 current and 10 prospective members. Our program incorporated time to socialize, a light dinner and featured presentations on the referendum on the November ballot. On 1/14/2017 the committee hosted a Member Coffee. This gathering attracted 34 current and 14 prospective members. Featured were short summaries by Committee Chairs and a presentation by the LWV, Lake Michigan Region.

Our Committee goals continue to be: to increase the numbers and diversity of our membership; and to contact all members, but especially new members to be sure they feel included and to encourage involvement in our organization.

On Sunday June 6, the Membership Committee has arranged to have a booth for The League of Women Voters at Day in Our Village in Oak Park. We hope to increase our visibility in the community.

Observers – Chairperson Mary Haley

We have had a busy year with many important issues coming before the elected boards in our villages. Referendums for Districts 200 and 97, requests for zoning variances in Oak Park, TIF requests in River Forest and the ongoing debates about pools and high rise development are just some of the issues the observers have followed and updated our members on through our monthly reports. Most of the Oak Park Boards now have permanent observers. We need observers for the River Forest and Forest Park board as well as for Triton.

A real concern for the observers is how few members access the reports on our website. Our presence at the meetings encourages transparency in our local government bodies and provides everyone with an easy way of keeping up with what is going on in village government. . If anyone has suggestions about how we can make our reports more relevant, please share your ideas with us.

Finally, thank you to our new observers: Lauren Behan, Suzanne Davis, Leigh Eichler and Ameri Klafeta. And many thanks to Mary Rose Lambke and Jane Schlichting who have retired as observers after many years of service.

Second Tuesday –Chairpersons Glynne Gervais, Stephen Jordan

This has been an interesting first year co-chairing the Second Tuesday group. Stephen Jordan and I have been most fortunate to find people who are passionate about their work or avocation and shared their knowledge with us. We also thank members who told us about some of these presenters.

The attendance has been between ten to thirty per session. Weather was a factor in a few instances, but we had a loyal group of fifteen. Our lowest month was January, but it was most needed. We were all still in shock about the election results. We were able to flush out our thoughts and to move forward with what it would take to hold on to our values. That discussion has directed our forward programming.

Topics and speakers we had:

-presentation on the District 200 referendum by both pro and con sides of the issue. We received a lot of facts to help us vote..

-An update on the transportation issue on the Eisenhower issue. Rick Kuner was most informative and up to date.

-We learned about the recently created position of Community Resources at the Library. Robert Simmons is the manager who spoke about his role and how it fit in with what the Library focus on patrons needs.

-We heard about a newly formed organization that teaches children a healthy way to look at sex and health . Nina Davis Brewer and Nara Nayar have a developed and tested curriculum . Classes are filling up at OWL Our Whole Lives is a holistic , comprehensive sexuality education for grades Kindergarten through 8th grade.

-We heard about an organization founded by Beth Isaacs that provides support to incarcerated mothers and their babies. There are not many prison birth programs. Il. Birth Justice does this at Cook County jail.

-We had a good turnout for the program on Why Journalism Matters led by Deborah Kaden. She gave many points on what are credible news sources and how to identify them, what the current environment means to freedom of the press and how is factual reporting constructed.

-We looked at the current immigration issue with the expert guidance of Marketa Lindt , an immigration lawyer at Sidley Austin LLP and a national officer of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. She spoke about the key points of President Trump's immigration platform. What has changed since the election and how this has affected communities. We spoke on what we can do to be involved and what we can expect to change. President Trump's immigration platform. What has changed since the election and how this has affected communities. We spoke on what we can do to be involved and what we can expect to change.

-In May, we will look at climate change issues with Lucia Whalen. We have named this one "Climate Change and Civic Engagement in Our Community".

We look forward to possible discussions for next season. We thank the Nineteenth Century Club for the use of the space and the support they have given us with set up and beverages.

Voter Service – Chairperson Peggy Kell

Voter Service was very busy this year what with a November Presidential election followed by April Municipal elections. Voter registration before the November election was done at block parties, area high schools, the Food Pantry, Churches, the Cook County Jail and Senior Living facilities. We netted over 300 new voters. We also sponsored two mock elections; one at Julian Middle School and one at Mother Guerin Prep in River Grove. We held three candidate forums in Oak Park and two in River Forest, where we partnered with the River Forest Service. Videos of all five forums were all posted on our website, where viewership ran from 550 to 130 views for the videos. Videos of candidates in uncontested races were also posted. Our Committee volunteers helped ensure successful and well organized voter registration drives and candidate forums. Well done!

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 2017-2018**

Focus/Priority

- Improve local League website, electronic, and media communications to serve as a resource to foster transparency and participation in government.
- Develop programs/speakers on timely issues as suggested by the Board of Directors or other members.
- Continue our voter service efforts to register and provide information to voters.
- Expand membership and encourage participation in League activities through social media and informal social gatherings.
- Encourage participation and engage all members in League advocacy and priorities.
- Partner with other community organizations to accomplish shared goals and to increase League visibility.

Continuous/Revised

- Promote LWVIL tax and school finance positions with 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.
- Continue to be the eyes and ears of our communities by strengthening our Observer Corps.
- Maintain involvement in coalitions to improve well-being of youth.
- Support archival development and oral history.
- Encourage and educate women on how to run for elected office.

League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest Proposed Nominations for 2017-18

President

Marge Massarello 2017-2018

Vice Presidents

Mary Haley 2017-2018

Kathy Balk 2017-2018

Marissa Garza 2017-19

Secretary

Alyssa Ralston 2017-2019

Treasurer

Sarah Shirk 2016-2018

Directors

Leigh Eicher 2017-18

Beth Rooney 2017-18

2017-19

Judith McDevitt 2017-19

Suzanne Isaacson 2017-19

Joan Petertil 2017-18

COMMITTEE CHAIRS for 2017-18 to be appointed by the Board

Appointed by the Board for one-year terms. They may be appointed more than once.

ADMINISTRATION: Peggy Kell

ADVOCACY: Diane Moses

ARCHIVES: Johan Walsh

CHILDREN & YOUTH: Sharon Stoltz

COMMUNICATIONS: Sarah Shirk, Marissa Garza, Alyssa Ralston, Peggy Kell

DRINKS & DIALOGUE: Heather Cunningham, Susan Stall

ENVIRONMENT: Marsha Borders, Beverly Graham

FUNDRAISING Shop N Share: Beverly Graham

FUNDRAISING 2019 SOV: Vice-Presidents

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: Carolyn DeCoursey, Jean Peterman

LEAGUE MATTERS: Peggy Kell

LWVCC LIAISON: Beverly Graham

LWVLAKE MICHIGAN LIAISON: Sarah Shirk

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Marilyn Cantisano

MEMBERSHIP RECORDING: Ann Bolan

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

OBSERVERS: Mary Haley

SECOND TUESDAY: Stephen Jordan, Glynne Gervais, Judith McDevitt

VOTER SERVICE: Peggy Kell

Standing committees to be appointed by the Board of Directors

BY-LAWS:

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

POLITICAL ACTIVITY POLICY:



Marilyn Cantisano

2017 Hazel Hanson

Award Winner

I was born in Rochester, NY and grew up there surrounded by a large extended Italian family. I first became politically aware when at ten years old I watched the Nixon-Kennedy debates on TV. I was fascinated by the interaction between those two men and saw in Kennedy's presidency an exciting future for our country. Of course, his assassination, followed by the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, was devastating. I watched the Civil Rights Movement and the protests against the Vietnam War, too. George McGovern was the first presidential candidate I stumped the pavement for and my first vote cast in a presidential race (I had missed being 18 for the 1968 vote by five days). Unfortunately we know how that election turned out.

I entered The Ohio State University in 1967. This was a time of social action. During the protests decrying the Vietnam War, the National Guard was on the OSU campus. When the students were killed at nearby Kent State University by the Ohio National Guard, OSU was also immediately closed down. I still remember the feeling of the tear gas the Guards used against us. In 1972, I received my Masters Degree in Social Work. I moved to the Chicago area and worked as a School Social Worker for several years, first at East Leyden High School in Franklin Park and then at Leigh and Giles Elementary Schools in Norridge, where I was the first School Social Worker hired after the state mandated these services be provided. After taking time off from the workforce and staying home with my children, I began working part time at the Infant Welfare Clinic in Oak Park and later at Parenthesis Parent Child Center. At Parenthesis I was Director of the Evening Programs and worked primarily with teen parents and single parents.

In 1997 when my oldest son graduated from High School, I left Parenthesis and in 1998, with my friend Pam Risher, I began a travel business, City Ventures Tours. This business grew from our first tour to the Art Institute with only four travelers to full day and multi-day tours for locals and out-of-town travelers. In 2009, I sold my portion of the business to Pam, and I am now "hired" by her to lead between 10-15 tours a year.

I joined the League of Women Voters in 1997. I have always been interested in politics, supporting voting rights, women's rights, environmental protection and other progressive policies. I wasn't active in the League for several years because of the time commitment of starting a business, but in 2009, I came out of hiding and began going to League meetings and events. I have been a Board Member, Vice President, Co-Chair of the Voter Services Committee, Co-Chair of the 2015 State of the Villages, and I am currently Co-Chair of the Membership Committee. The League has allowed me the privilege of meeting some of the brightest, most compassionate, and politically active women in the area.

My interests are reading, traveling, walking outdoors, spending time with family, friends, and most of all my four grandchildren. I have lived in Oak Park for 44 years and have been married for 43 of those years to my husband Donald Southworth. I have two grown sons.

I try to remain hopeful in the new political climate. Now more than ever organizations like the League of Women Voters that believe in a strong democracy are essential to helping people take stands for human rights. As of the day I am writing this, I am pleased to say our local Oak Park-River Forest League has had 50 new members since August 2016. There is hope!

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.

**PLEASE BRING THIS
PROGRAM WITH YOU
to the Annual Meeting
May 23, 2017 5:30PM**