



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

The Chicago Voter

April 2017
Vol. 67 No. 9

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Upcoming Events

Education Committee

Tuesday, April 4, 3 pm
 Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 4, 5:30 pm

Communications Committee

Thursday, April 6, 6 pm

Briefing/Open Meeting

Saturday, April 8, 10 am

Room 430

Health Committee

Thursday, April 13, 12:15 pm

State of the City Committee

Friday, April 14, 10 am

State of the City Luncheon

Tuesday, May 2, 11:30 am

Union League Club

Meetings in the LWVChicago
Conference Room unless listed
otherwise

Please check the web site
[LWVChicago.org](http://www.LWVChicago.org) for additional
scheduled committee meetings.
Call 312-939-5949 or email for
meeting locations.

A Year of Action

President's Message

Dear League Members,

Our very active volunteers have some great events planned for the next few months, and we hope you can attend at least a few. And, if you're interested, you can help plan events for next year!



Two of these events deserve special mention. The first is the State of the City luncheon, to be held on Tuesday, May 2 at the Union League Club. This is a major fundraiser for us; the money supports our work on voter service, education and civic engagement. This year, we will have a discussion on the topic City Hall and City Council: Is the Balance of Power Shifting? Mary Ann Ahern of NBC TV will moderate with Mary Mitchell of the *Chicago Sun Times*,

Ben Joravsky of the *Chicago Reader*, and Hal Dardick of the *Chicago Tribune* on the panel. They will tell us how they view the situation as political reporters. This event attracts many non-members. Please consider inviting a friend who may be interested in supporting the League.

The second event is the League of Women Voters of Illinois Convention, to be held June 9, 10, and 11 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Des Plaines. On Friday, Convention kicks off with a series of workshops on issues, action, and membership development. Then Saturday and Sunday will cover LWVIL business: bylaws changes, issues and action program, and election of officers. Everyone is welcome to attend – and, in fact, we need delegates to vote in Saturday and Sunday's business session. Convention is a great introduction to the work and organization of the League. And, because of generous donors to the recent leadership fund drive, we can cover the registration costs for as many as 20 members of LWVChicago who want to attend. (You will have to cover optional costs of food, lodging, and transportation.) Let us know if you wish to participate. We'll get back to you to confirm that we'll reimburse your registration fee. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Annie

Social Policy/Housing

The topics for the Social Policy/Housing Briefing/Open Meeting on April 8 will be Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and CHA's 10-Year Plan for the Transformation of Public Housing.



This program could not be more timely with the announcement on March 29 by Inspector General Joe Ferguson about affordable housing fees.

The speakers will be Patricia Fron, Executive Director, Bob Palmer, and Leah Levinger. See the flyer on page 6 of this *Chicago Voter*, for details.

Contact the office by email or phone 312-939-5949 to be places on the building security list.

After this meeting attendees are invited to stay for about an hour to discuss opportunities for action.

Briefing on Education Funding

On March 11 the LWVChicago Education Committee held a briefing on the Evidence-Based Model as a new method of funding education in Illinois. Ralph Martire, executive director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, spoke on the issue.



As Martire explained, Illinois schools are funded on the basis of a foundation level, a minimum target amount per student for all districts, which is supplemented by categorical funds. This method is not tied to the actual cost of education, and funding among districts is not equal.

Illinois ranks 50th in state funding for education. On a real or inflation-adjusted basis, there has not been an increase in total state funding to our public schools since 2008.

The Evidence-Based Model was developed to address problems in education funding. Its features include an adequacy target for each district based on demographics; a local contribution target; a resource ratio; funding tiers to address first those with the lowest resource ratios; and accountability consisting of a review panel that continually reviews outcomes. The Evidence-Based Model is based on the cost of practices that research shows kids need to succeed.

-Rae Sokolow

Next Chicago in Focus



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?

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

Unit Meetings

Topic: Social Policy/Housing

Far Southwest Side Unit

Wednesday, April 26 – 7 PM

Beverly Unitarian Church

10244 S Longwood Drive

Leaders – Marcia Cowing, Betsy Perrine

Hyde Park Unit

Thursday, April 20 – 1:30 PM

Montgomery Place

Leaders – Susan Hamburger, Dorothy Scheff

Loop Unit – afternoon

Wednesday, April 12 – 1:30 PM

LWVChicago Conference Room

Leader – Carol Ziegeldorf

Loop Unit – evening

Tuesday, April 18 – 5:30 PM

LWVChicago Conference Room

Leader – Margaret Herring

Loop Unit – morning

Thursday, April 20 – 10 AM

LWVChicago Conference Room

Leader – Bernice Fortini

West Side Unit

Sunday, April 9 – 1:30 PM

Third Unitarian Church

301 N. Mayfield, Chicago

Leader – Joan Morton

Voter Service

Deputy Voter Registrar Training

Members can take the training provided by the Chicago Board of Elections to become a Deputy Voter Registrar. Sessions are scheduled at the Chicago Board of Elections at 69 W Washington on:

Wednesday, April 19 – 3:00 pm

Saturday, April 29 – 9:30 am.

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

Helene Gabelnick

Observers

Have you considered investigating what being an Observer of meetings of Chicago's governmental bodies would entail? Check out the League's website for [Guidelines for Observers](#).

Pat Graunke

Breakfast and Orientation for New and Prospective Members April 22

The February 4 event was “sold out,” so another one will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 9:30 to 11:30 at Aqua Tower. All new members who [did not attend the February Orientation and](#) have joined since July 1 of 2016, and prospective members identified by our existing members, should have already received an invitation via email.



Besides enjoying tasty hot and cold breakfast items furnished by the Board and Membership Committee, those attending will have the opportunity to learn from a variety of speakers about the different activities of the LWVChicago, as well as about the levels of the League we automatically join as members of Chicago League. Attendees will also be invited to get involved and help make a difference!

In order to attend, you must RSVP because the Aqua desk staff must have your name. But don't delay your response. You don't want to hear that this event has already reached capacity. Questions? Contact Pat Graunke via League@LWVChicago.org.

Welcome to New Members

*Michèle de St. Aubin
Michelle Duffy
Catherine Enright
Jennifer Grochowski
Claire Hartfield
Pat Hillstrom
Nancy Kelly-Martin
Tracy Matchinski
Maureen O'Shea
Eileen Rochford
Chris Ruys
Mary Shapiro
Nyelsha Winfrey*

Nominating Committee

At the Annual Meeting on June 17 members of LWVChicago will elect Officers and Directors for the 2017-2018 League year.

The offices to be filled include: Up to three Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. There can be a maximum of 12 elected directors. All terms are two-years.

See the [article](#) in the March Chicago Voter, page 5, for specific details. To volunteer please contact Tana Durnbaugh, Nominating Committee Chair.

Health Care Report

Affordable Care Act

On March 24 House Speaker Paul Ryan and President Trump announced that there were not enough votes to pass the bill to repeal and replace the ACA. Speaker Ryan said he was pulling the bill and that the ACA would remain the law of the land.

This was good news for supporters of affordable quality healthcare for all, and was the result of advocacy efforts from concerned parties all over the country. Here in Illinois the LWV worked with others in the Protect Our



Care IL Coalition (PoCIL) to oppose the repeal and replace bill being considered in Congress. League members, who were constituents, contacted the seven Illinois

Representatives who indicated they supported repeal and replace through phone, email, rallies, and social media. A few League members had a sit-down meeting with Rep. Hultgren, and some others had a video conference with Rep. Kinzinger. Other League members, who are not constituents, did their part by contacting friends or family who live in these districts, writing letters to the editor, and participating in social media. We are grateful for all their efforts.

However, there is still much work to do. Shortly after his inauguration President Trump signed a directive to government officials that it was not necessary to enforce the rules of the ACA, such as paying a penalty if one does not enroll in an insurance plan; this will weaken the law. Also the ACA still has many flaws; for many in the individual market the cost is too high, there are limited insurance choices, and available insurance may also restrict an individual's choice of medical providers. These problems need to be solved.

Remember the ACA as first passed was just a foot in the door; we still have a way to go before we achieve affordable quality health care for all.



During the past few months there has been a lot of news and discussion about repeal and replacement of the ACA. The result is more

understanding about it and polls from Kaiser, Pew Research, and Quinnipiac show that the ACA has greater popularity and its highest favorability ratings since its inception.

Margaret O'Hara

LWVCHICAGO COMMITTEES

State of the City

Preparations are continuing for our State of the City fundraising luncheon on May 2: City Hall and City Council: Is the Balance of Power Shifting? Save the Date flyers have been sent, an ad (see below) is being placed in the online subscription newsletter The Daily Line, an invitation is included in this Chicago Voter on page 8 and more information will follow.



This will be a very informative program, with leading journalists discussing power politics, effective representation, and internal City Council dynamics. Mary Ann Ahern will moderate the discussion. Hal Dardick, Ben Jarovsky, and Mary Mitchell will serve on the panel. If you are interested in volunteering some time to help with the work of the committee, please let us [know](#). You wish to register, please see our website for more information.

Karen Sandrick and Rae Sokolow

Education Committee



Members of the Education Committee continue to meet with legislators in order to promote an independent audit committee for the Chicago Board of Education. Committee

members have generated some interest in the position, but not a lot of success. We will continue pushing forward with this idea.



Several members of the Committee met with Raise Your Hand, a coalition of parents and concerned citizens who advocate for quality public education for all children in Chicago and Illinois. Committee members and representatives from Raise Your Hand are planning on the next move regarding school vouchers. A new idea has been suggested in the state legislature which is tax credits. These credits would once again take money from the traditional public schools and give it to charter and private schools. Raise Your Hand has written a letter to voice concerns regarding vouchers as well as tax credits. LWVChicago has signed onto the letter along with many other organizations.

Rae Sokolow

Communications Committee



Committee members have been looking into redesigning the website with a new easier-to-use format, using social media effectively, gathering LWV history information, revising a lobbying publication, and publishing factual information for members. We need to assess what we have left to do with these projects and how best to continue our plans to promote the League's good work.

We have a lot of well researched information and are active when lobbying for our positions, but we need to become better at communicating what we know and what we do. Now more than ever, people need to know that the League will continue to work for government policies that are effective, transparent and fair.

The Communications Committee will meet on **Thursday April 6** at 6pm. If you would like to join us join this effort, please come and share your ideas for communicating the League's information and activities.

Cathy Potkay

Health Committee

The Health Committee has had its first meeting. Attendees agreed that the most pressing health concern in Chicago and Illinois is the repeal and replacement of the ACA. Cook County Hospital is one of the largest providers of healthcare in Chicago. We have been asked by LWVCook County if our members would join them and participate as observers in Cook County Health and Hospitals Systems Board meetings. The next Committee meeting will be **Thursday April 13** at 12:15pm.

Margaret O'Hara

News

FROM LWVUS

Millions of Lives Saved as ACA Replacement Bill Failed

Washington, DC – Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, issued the following statement after the US House Speaker Paul Ryan pulled the American Health Care Act from the House floor on March 24, canceling the vote: *"Today we saw further proof that the American Health Care Act is the wrong solution to healthcare in this country. This unpopular legislation is bad for women, bad for families and bad for seniors. The House took the right step by not voting on this un-American bill that would take away health coverage for millions of Americans."*

FROM LWVIL

State Convention at O'Hare Hilton



The League of Women Voters of Illinois' 2017 state convention is planned for June 10 and 11 at the Hilton Gardens Inn, Des Plaines. A pre-

convention program will take place at the hotel on Friday, June 9. The Hilton Garden Inn is located at 2930 S. River Road in Des Plaines.

FROM LWV COOK COUNTY

Annual Meeting Date Set



All Chicago League members (and your friends) are invited to attend the League of Women Voters of Cook County **Annual Meeting on Monday, May 8, from 9:30 to 1 pm at University**

Center, 525 S. State Street, Chicago. (See the flyer on page 7.) The \$35 fee for the event includes lunch, during which County Commissioner Bridget Gainer will be featured speaker.

Why You Should Attend

- Mix and mingle with members of other Leagues within Cook County
- Contribute to Cook County League; \$4 of your dues support the work of the League.

- Get more information about government entities within the County that your tax dollars (such as sales and property) pay for, including the Cook County Board and elected county officials such as the Assessor and Sheriff, the court system (part of the State system), Health & Hospitals System and its independent Board, Forest Preserves District, and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District which is responsible for keeping our drinking water safe.
- Learn about the County League's past accomplishments and upcoming projects.
- Hear from Bridget Gainer, an articulate and active member of the Cook County Board of Commissioners whose district is in Chicago. Gainer created and now chairs the Cook County Land Bank, chairs the Board's Pensions Committee and the Workforce, Housing and the Community Development Committee of the Cook County Board.
- Have an interesting and stimulating morning. Please *complete the response form at the bottom of the flyer and return it, along with your check made out to the LWVIL Education Fund, by Monday, May 1* to Amy Little at the address shown.

Pris Mims

FROM LWV LAKE MICHIGAN REGION

Great Lakes Restoration Funding in the President's Budget for the EPA Has Been Eliminated



Zero dollars! Obviously, in order to ensure the future of the Great Lakes, our national, natural treasures, funding is necessary. We must rely on our Representatives and Senators to stand strong for the Great Lakes and restore funding for both the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and for clean water infrastructure funding. Funding for these programs will be in competition with funding for everything else.

Please tell your members of Congress that the Great Lakes and water programs are *your priority*. Your federal legislators have the power of the purse strings.

Call Your Members of Congress Today!

Any member of Congress may be reached through the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Use your zip code to look up [who represents you](#). *This request for action was approved by LWVUS.*

AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING & CHA'S TEN YEAR PLAN FOR TRANSFORMATION



The Social Policy/Housing Committee of the League of Women Voters of Chicago presents an open meeting and briefing on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and CHA's 10-Year Plan for the Transformation of Public Housing.

Saturday, April 8
10 AM to noon
332 South Michigan Avenue
Room 430

Presenting are:

Patricia Fron, Executive Director,
Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance

Bob Palmer, Director of Policy,
Housing Action of Illinois

Leah Levinger, Executive Director
Chicago Housing Initiative

Ms. Fron and Mr. Palmer will address the status of the Federal Fair Housing Act provision requiring recipients of Federal assistance to affirmatively further fair housing and Ms. Levinger will provide an update of the Chicago Housing Authority's 10-Year Plan for the Transformation of Public Housing.

Please RSVP by Thursday, April 6 to League@LWVChicago.org or phone 312-939-5949 to be placed on the Building Security List.

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
65 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL
Program begins at 5:30
Doors open at 5 p.m.
5 – 7 p.m.
Admission is free, cash bar

Dress: Business casual, no jeans/denim
RSVP to 312-939-5949 or League@LWVChicago.org

Bring a friend!

LWVCookCounty
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
invites
ALL COOK COUNTY LEAGUE MEMBERS and GUESTS

2017 LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON

Monday, May 8, 2017 9:30 am - 1:00 pm
University Center - 525 S. State St - Chicago - Lake Room
Directions and Parking Info at: <http://www.conferencechicagouc.com/location/>

Featured Speaker
Bridget Gainer
Chair of the County's Land Bank and Pension Committee

9:30 am Registration - Coffee/Muffins - Silent Auction
10:00 am Annual Business Meeting
11:30am Buffet Lunch
12 noon Speaker - CC Commissioner, Bridget Gainer, 10th District

Cost: \$35 per person **RSVP** by Monday, May 1

For further information contact LWVCC at 312-939-5935 x27 or cook@lwvill.org

LWVCC Annual Meeting - May 8, 2017
PLEASE INCLUDE NAMES OF ALL ATTENDEES [use back side if needed]

Name(s) _____ League _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ I will be serving as a Delegate from my League

Make check payable to **LWVIL Education Fund** and send to:
Amy Little, 2107 S. Fairfield, Chicago, IL., 60608

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ reservations at \$35 each

I cannot attend but my contribution of \$ _____ is enclosed

* *Reminder for Silent Auction Purchases: CASH or CHECK...Thank you.*



Panelists: Hal Dardick, Ben Joravsky, Mary Mitchell

Moderator: Mary Ann Ahern

Reservation Deadline April 20

Reservations will be held at the door.

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

PATRON \$2,000 Number _____ Total \$ _____

Includes 10 tickets, preferred seating and acknowledgement in program and on web site.

SPONSOR \$1,000 Number _____ Total \$ _____

Includes 5 tickets, preferred seating and acknowledgement in program and on web site.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS \$110 each Number _____ Total \$ _____

DONATION

I am unable to attend but would like to donate to the LWVChicago Education Fund

Amount \$ _____

Please send this form along with the names of those attending. Mail a check, made payable to **LWV Chicago Education Fund**, to LWVChicago, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 634, Chicago, IL 60604. *The League's Education fund is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and therefore contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. Contributions in excess of \$60 per ticket are tax deductible.* For more information, call LWVChicago at 312-939-5949.

On line reservations and payment through Eventbright will be available after April 1.