

## Ideas for Local Leagues in Illinois -- *continued*

### Background Information

#### Elections in Illinois:

- 2018: March Primary and November General elections
- 2019: local elections (including Chicago mayoral and aldermanic)
- 2020: March Primary and November General elections

#### LWV Convention:

- June 28 thru July 1, 2018 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers
- This should be the national kick-off of the celebration of the Centennials, but local Leagues can start earlier

#### Themes and Slogans:

- LWVUS has suggested "**Creating a More Perfect Democracy**" See the 100th Anniversary Took Kit, <http://forum.lwv.org/document/lwv-100th-anniversary-toolkit>
- LWVIL 100th Anniversary Committee hopes that you will tie in all that you do with the mission of the League: **to encourage the informed and active participation in our democracy**, particularly given the upcoming 3 years of elections.
- In addition to the LWVUS slogan, LWVIL 100th Anniversary Committee is suggesting using:

#### BE INFORMED AND VOTE:

Celebrate the League of Women Voters and the 19th Amendment  
1920-2020

### Ideas for Local Leagues

- Local league histories: prepare a history of your league. May also want to research the history of the suffrage movement in your area prior to the passage of the 19th amendment. There are several national history projects that you can connect to through the LWVIL, including one that is mapping places where the suffrage movement happened throughout the U.S.; you can help fill in the map with Illinois sites based on your research.
- Oral and video histories: interview members, particularly, long-time members, about what they recall of the league and members, why they joined, why they stayed as members, etc.
- Hold "count-up" celebrations in conjunction with some of these key dates:
  - Jan. 9, birthday of Carrie Chapman Catt (1859)
  - Feb. 14, date League was founded (1920)
  - Feb. 15, birthday of Susan B Anthony (1820)
  - June 4, date Congress passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1919)
  - June 10, date Illinois ratified the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1919)
  - June 11, anniversary of women getting the right to vote in Illinois for local and national offices (1913, first state east of the Mississippi!)
  - July 16, birthday of Ida B. Wells (1862)
  - July 19-20, anniversary of Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention (1848)
  - Aug. 18, date 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified by sufficient number of states (1920)
  - Aug. 26, date the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment officially became part of the Constitution (1920)
  - Sept. 6, birthday of Jane Addams (1860)

- Sept. 28, birthday of Frances Willard (1839)
  - Date that your League was organized
- Get proclamations from local governments for centennials.
- Partner with local libraries, colleges, schools, other local groups to:
  - demo Ballot Ready, Vote 411, or any other voters' guides. Within Cook County, could show the WTTW/League of Women Voters of Cook County Video Voter's guide videos in conjunction with upcoming elections, as your league often does, but with the added twist of the centennials.
  - sponsor book discussions on histories of how the suffrage movement happened, how voting was limited and/or extended over time, biographies of key figures, challenges to voting, etc. (Note, there is even a series of mysteries related to Seneca Falls so not all the books have to be serious.)
  - show videos of documentaries (e.g., the Ken Burns' *Not for Ourselves Alone*, *How We Got the Vote: The Exciting Story of the Struggle for Female Equality* from 1986, and *One Woman, One Vote* from 1995), or other films (such as *Iron-Jawed Angels* or the 2017 subtitled film about women getting the vote in Switzerland in 1971 called *The Diving Order*), and include discussions.
  - to share the oral or video histories
  - sponsor contests with local high schools for the students to prepare short video or oral "commercials" as to:
    - Why vote
    - Where to get information on candidates and issues:
      - i. No taxation without representation and Revolutionary War and the Constitution (who got the right to vote then)
      - ii. Enactment of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment (July 9, 1868) and 15<sup>th</sup> amendment (Feb. 3, 1870)
      - iii. Enactment of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment (Aug. 18 or 26, depending on which date you want to use, 1920)
      - iv. Enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Aug. 6)
      - v. Enactment of the 24<sup>th</sup> amendment (Jan. 23, 1964)
      - vi. Enactment of the 26<sup>th</sup> amendment (July 1, 1971)
      - vii. Other significant milestones.
    - What being able to vote means to you.
    - Voting: a right or an obligation?
- work with local television and/or radio stations to broadcast some of these "commercials".
- something similar to above for Twitter messages, and get people to send out the "winning" ones.
- Also contact local newspapers (and online papers) so they will do stories about all your activities, but especially the student contests.
- Street banners for celebrating the Centennials in 2020.
- Work with local colleges on projects, such as a series of talks, panel discussions, etc., on some of the ideas listed in 6 c above. Might also want to do the same with local high schools, especially their social studies departments.
- Work with local museums, historical societies and community groups to commemorate the League and the 19th Amendment, particularly what happened locally.
- March or have floats/cars, etc. in local parades (e.g., July 4).