



The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst

Over 75 Years of Public Policy Debate and Voter Education in our Community

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Shop Talk

Single Payer Health Care

Dr. Anne Scheetz and Dr. Nike Mourikes
Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00 pm

Special Location: Serene Teaz, 108 West Park Avenue in Elmhurst

The League of Women Voters supports a single payer health care system. What is it, how does it work, and what are its limitations? Join us at Serene Teaz, located west of York Road, south of the downtown train tracks, for a stimulating discussion on this LWVUS priority issue.

Anne Scheetz is a physician in private practice, a long-time member of Physicians for a National Health Program, the Chicago co-chair of the Illinois Single-Payer Coalition, and a frequent speaker on single-payer national health care.

Nike Mourikes is a physician who has worked for the Cook County Health and Hospital Systems for over 16 years. She has been a long-time member of Physicians for a National Health Program and a single-payer advocate.

Great Decisions
Barbara Swords

Thursday, April 2nd, at 9:15 am

The topic for discussion is "Afghanistan and Pakistan," as discussed in chapter 2 of our 2009 study book. The interesting and complex issues arising for our country and the world community require thoughtful study and discussion. Chapter

2 presents good information and provocative ideas; especially helpful are several excellent maps. New members are welcome and new books are available. Please e-mail Barbara to say you will be able to attend.

Voter Registration
Myrrha Guzman

On Thursday March 5th, 37 Addison Trail High School students registered to vote. Many expressed their frustration at having been just days or months shy of their 18th birthdays in time to vote in November's presidential elections. The DuPage Election Commission requested our assistance with this registration drive as part of the Village of Addison's Government Days. It

was a pleasure working with Addison Village Clerk, Lucille Zucchero, and ATHS Social Studies teacher, LaVonne Cescolini-Boyer.

Registrars **Donna Blue** and **Susan DeRonne** registered 3 voters at the Elmhurst Public Library on Saturday afternoon, March 7th.

President's Corner

Spring Greetings!

We are looking forward to a great meeting this month. Those of us who went to the National LWV Convention in Portland, OR last June attended several workshops that addressed our troubled health care system. We were especially impressed by the speakers from the Physicians for a National Health Program and delighted to discover they are active in Chicago. The folks at SereneTeaz here in Elmhurst have kindly agreed to let us use their shop for the meeting and we are eager to connect with another local business.

Soon it will be time for our **Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 21 at the Wilder Mansion!**

Your Board, special committees and the Nominating Committee, headed **Marilyn Thompson**, have been busy making preparations: determining a slate of officers, securing a site and date, reviewing bylaws, preparing the budget and audit, and reviewing our Study, Support and Action items. The next issue of Shop Talk will be the official *Call to Annual Meeting*, containing the information needed for conducting business. **Remember to bring it with you to the meeting.** We look forward to seeing you there. Not only is Annual Meeting a vital part of our League business, it is a great opportunity to reconnect and socialize with members.

Membership

Sue Williams

Please welcome our newest member:

Sue A. Whitworth

The biennial **LWVIL State Convention** is scheduled for June 12-14 in East Peoria. With our current membership count, we are allotted 5 delegates. All League members are welcome to attend and we may bring more than our delegate allotment. These additional attendees may be assigned to vote on behalf of Leagues that do not send their full complement of delegates. More information on the Convention and the registration form are available on the LWVIL website, www.lwvil.org. The Conventions are informative and fun. Car pooling will be arranged. Let me know if you would like to attend.

We have gotten a lot of positive feedback on our recent Candidate Forum and online Voters' Guide featuring video of the Forum. Kudos to **Cheri Niewiara** and the volunteers who made the Forum possible and to **Jeanne Davik** for her work making the guide and video available on our website. Analysis of website data indicates that people are using this valuable resource.

This month, please welcome our new member, **Sue Whitworth.**

See you at SereneTeaz!

Donna Blue

Remember to Pay Your Dues by June 1st

It has come to our attention that **Denise Hynes'** email address is incorrect in our current *Yearbook/Directory*. The Directory listing starts with an n instead of an h.

It is almost that time of year again: **Your LWV memberships must be renewed by June 1st.** The membership form will be in next month's *Call to Annual Meeting*. The best way to pay is by bringing your form and payment to Annual Meeting on May 21st. You also have the option of mailing your dues to LWV Elmhurst, P.O. Box 12, Elmhurst, IL 60126 or paying online at www.lwvelmhurst.org. If there are special considerations, please contact Sue Williams, Membership Chair.

Cool Cities Coalition

As the coalition continues to work to reduce green house gas emissions, the following top 10 priority recommendations are being submitted to the City of Elmhurst to encourage the City's continued leadership and to demonstrate ways homeowners and businesses can help by reducing reliance on gasoline, improving energy efficiency, using renewable sources of energy, and increasing recycling efforts:

Use Less Gasoline

*Support recommendations of the Mayor's Bike Task Force to ensure Elmhurst becomes a bike friendly community.

*Implement NO Idling Zones and work with other institutions such as schools, the college, hospital, library, and park district to educate residents and change behavior.

Energy Efficiency

*Conduct a citywide Emissions Audit for Elmhurst to set a baseline for improvement and to provide information to the community at large.

*Recommend all commercial building owners complete an energy audit every 5 years. Provide information on how to retrofit for energy efficiency based on the 2009 International Energy Conservation Codes.

*Replace street lights with LED bulbs.

Renewable Energy

*Purchase 50% of city electricity from a renewable source.

*Provide an incentive such as reduced building permit fees for using solar, geo-thermal, and wind energy in new homes, additions or refits.

Recycle

*Add all multi-family units in the City to the City's recycling program.

*Implement a City ordinance requiring recycling or reuse of construction/demolition debris in the City.

*Provide a safe place to deposit old/unused pharmaceuticals.

Freedom of Information Act

Recently, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan asked the Illinois League of Women Voters, the Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC) in Elmhurst, and others to offer suggestions for reforming the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Some suggested revisions, covered in the March 29 edition of the *Elmhurst Press*, include adding penalty provisions for noncompliance (there currently are none), training for the FOIA officers, revising the exemptions section and capping the costs to petitioners. Since then, a situation has arisen in Elmhurst illustrating another area where reform is needed: where poorly defined FOIA rules collide with election law.

After the January deadline for submitting School Board candidate petitions to the Elmhurst District 205 offices, the CAC received a complaint that the School District had required a

citizen to make a FOIA request to obtain copies of candidate filings. Jan Dorner, our League Observer, confirmed that a FOIA request for candidate petitions had been filed and was documented in a recent District 205 School Board meeting packet available online.

Citizens have the right, under Illinois law, to review candidates' petitions and file objections for a variety of reasons. The practice is becoming more and more common in local elections but there are time limits. Under the Illinois Election Code, an objection to a candidate's nominating petition must be filed within five business days after the deadline for filing nominating petitions. However, under FOIA rules, government entities have seven business days to respond to a request by (1) informing the requester that it will deny the

Issues and Advocacy, continued

request, (2) stating they need additional time to respond, or (3) granting the request.

If the entity notifies the requester that it needs more time to respond, it has an additional seven working days to do so under specified, allowable circumstances. Thus, it may take up to 14 days for the request to be fulfilled and a person seeking to challenge candidates' petitions may not receive them in time to meet the Illinois Election Code deadline for such challenges.

Furthermore, according to the District 205 online documents, the individual making the request had to pay for 79 copies @ \$.25/ea, which amounted to \$19.75. The FOIA does allow entities to charge fees that reflect the actual copying cost of requested documents; however, it prohibits charging fees in excess of actual copying costs. For example, the Village of Oak Brook charges \$0.10/page and the Illinois State Board of Education provides the first 39 pages of a document free of charge.

CAC Executive Director and League member Terry Pastika said she thinks that legally, FOIA may be superseded by the Illinois Election Code that requires all nomination papers to be available for inspection and copying. The Election Code also stipulates that copies of nomination documents are to be provided immediately or as soon as possible because of

the tight deadline for filing challenges. While District 205 did provide the copies to the requester in one day, it is possible that the District was in violation of state election law by requiring a FOIA request for those documents and in violation of FOIA by charging more than the actual cost of printing the copies.

Jan Dorner forwarded this situation to the Illinois League and Attorney General Madigan's office, recommending that the revised FOIA law be amended either to state specifically that Election Law supersedes it, or to exempt candidate nominating petitions, documents, and financial disclosures from FOIA.

The Attorney General's office replied saying they will draft an amendment to address the issues raised in Elmhurst. The first draft of the bill, HB1370, House Amendment 1 is already available at www.ilga.gov. In addition, HB4165 "codifies a public access counselor position in the AG's office who will have the authority to write binding opinions. The purpose of the position is to give individuals an alternative to a lawsuit for prompt and inexpensive resolution to issues arising from FOIA denials and alleged violations of the Open Meetings Act."

Jan Dorner, Terry Pastika, Myrrha Guzman and Laura Kratz contributed to this article.

Background Checks for Private Gun Sales (HB 48)

Jan Vanek, Fred Hodge (Janet's husband), and **Laura Kratz** from Elmhurst; along with Barb Marsh and Michelle Jordan from the Illinois LVW and Mark Walsh from the Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence) met with 46th District Representative Dennis Reboletti in early March. The conversation was cordial. However, Mr. Reboletti expressed displeasure over a flyer that was circulated by another organization during his reelection campaign. The flyer portrayed him as someone who endangers children because he did not vote to require background checks for gun show sales. He also indicated that he favors conceal and carry laws and worried that, if he

votes for HB 48, constituents will not be happy when he votes for conceal and carry. (He gave no reason why he would do this.) He agreed to consider HB 48 if he received enough phone calls from constituents indicating community support.

Elmhurst LVW issued an action alert on March 11th asking members who support the bill to call Mr. Reboletti. Quite a few members and friends of the League contacted Mr. Reboletti; a surprising number contacted 41st District Representative Bob Biggins as well. The bill is expected to be called for a vote on March 25th.

The **Elmhurst Public Library** has added a page called "Living Green in Elmhurst" that is accessible from its homepage: <http://www.elmhurstlibrary.org/LivingGreenInElmhurst.php>.

Librarian Sarah Caltvedt has assembled an impressive resource with links to information about how to live green in Elmhurst and preserve our environment.

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Saturday, March 28th from 8:30 to 9:30 pm.
Earth Hour Turn Off the LIGHTS - Join this International Event! Elmhurst Park District encourages you to join over ONE BILLION people in 1,000 cities around the world who will turn off their lights for an hour. Turning off the lights saves precious natural resources including water! For more information or to sign up as a participant, go to [Earth Hour](#).

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Wednesday, April 1, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Keep Medicines OUT of our Water & Landfills!

Bloomingtondale Township Senior Center, 6N050 Rosedale Road, Bloomingtondale, IL

Unused/expired medications distributed to humans & pets can be properly destroyed without endangering the environment. Please be sure to remove your name or and all personal identification from your containers and note that **no hypodermic syringes will be accepted.** Medications should not be flushed, or poured down the sink because they can kill the beneficial bacteria responsible for breaking down waste sewage plants & damage septic systems. The improper disposal of drugs can contaminate our environment. When medication is placed in the trash, unscrupulous individuals could

scavenge the drugs to illegally distribute them or the items will affect our land, water supplies and wildlife. The Unwanted/Expired Medication Disposal Program will safely & properly dispose of unused/expired medications while protecting your identity, your prescription benefits, and the environment. For more information, go to [Bloomingtondale Township](#)

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Saturday, April 18, 8:00 am-2:00 pm
Electronics Recycling

SIMS Recycling Solutions, 1600 Harvester, West Chicago, IL (630) 231-6060

ACCEPTED: Computers/Computer systems, TVs, Scrap Metal, Phones, VCRs, Fax Machines, Scanners, Answering Machines, Printers, Electronic Games

NOT ACCEPTED: Refrigerators, air conditioners.

SIMS is recognized as a safe electronics recycler.

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Sun, April 19th, from Noon – 4:00 pm **Go Green**
 Fullersburg Woods Nature Center, 3609 Spring Road, Oak Brook

A celebration in conservation! Learn how to go green - from products and crafts to recycling and native gardening. Click on [DuPage Forest](#)

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DuPage County Permanent Electronics Recycling Site

Glendale Heights Public Works Bldg, 1635 Glen Ellyn Road (Glen Ellyn Road and Fullerton), in Glendale Heights.

Hours: Monday-Friday from 7:30am - 3:30pm
 Phone: 630-462-7418

Important: This is the last regular Shop Talk of the 2008-2009 activity year. Next month you will receive the *Call to Annual Meeting* including meeting agenda and rules, membership renewal form, proposed budget, issues and action items, bylaws changes and slate of officers. Please read it carefully and bring it with you to the Annual Meeting on May 21st.

APRIL Events

- 1 ~ **Medication Disposal Drop Off**, 9:00am-1:00pm
Bloomingtondale Township Senior Center, Bloomingtondale
- 2 ~ **Great Decisions**, 9:15 am at the home of Barbara Swords
- 18 ~ **Electronics Recycling**, 8:00am-2:00pm ~, SIMS, West Chicago
- 19 ~ **Go Green** Noon-4:00pm ~ at Fullersburg Woods, Oak Brook
- 22 ~ ALL DAY! ~ It's **EARTH DAY!** --We can ALL Make a Difference!
- 24 ~ 137th **National Arbor Day** - Plant or Save a Tree
- 28 ~ 7:00 pm ~ **LWV Elmhurst Monthly Meeting:**
Single Payer Health Care at Serene Teaz, 108 West Park Avenue

Save the Date: May 21st at 7:00 pm ~ LWV Elmhurst Annual Meeting at Wilder Mansion



LWV Elmhurst
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