



# League of Women Voters of Elmhurst

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

# Shop Talk

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### In This Issue:

- Meetings/Events p. 1
- Great Decisions p. 2
- Membership p. 3
- Finance Drive p. 3
- Reports:
  - Project Green p. 2
  - Early Leavers p. 2
  - Phonathon p. 3
  - Redistricting p. 3
  - Term Limits p. 3
- League Calendar p. 4

### State of the State Luncheon Wednesday, June 2 Union League Club of Chicago

This annual event will be even more special this year because the League of Women Voters



is celebrating its 90th birthday.

“The State of Reform in Illinois” is this year’s theme and **Patrick Collins**

will be the keynote speaker.

Collins was chair of the Illinois Reform Commission and lead prosecutor in the trial of former governor George Ryan.

The Elmhurst League always has at least one table at this event. Plan to join us!

## Energy Audit & Project Green

**Thursday, April 22 — Earth Day!**

**7 p.m. — Elmhurst Public Library**

Sue Williams, Cool Cities

Our next regular meeting falls on Earth Day, April 22. Appropriately our topics are the Elmhurst Energy Audit and Cool Cities' Project GREEN. **Dennis Streicher** from the City of Elmhurst will discuss the Audit, and Cool Cities members from our League will present Project GREEN.



Project GREEN is a program that will inform you why and how to retrofit and weatherize your home. Whether you are looking for professionals to do the work or prefer to do-it-yourself, our Cool Cities members will have information to help you through the process.

*Benefits:* Save money on your utility bills, keep your home more comfortable, and help the environment. *Read more about Project Green on page 2.*

## LWV Elmhurst Annual Meeting

**Save the Date: Thursday, May 20**

**7:00 pm — Elmhurst Historical Museum**

Laura Kratz, President

Once a year, the Elmhurst League gathers to set our course for the coming year by electing officers and adopting our issues and action items. We also pay our dues, vote on new policies and approve the budget. In addition to the vital business needed to run the League, we use this opportunity to **celebrate our accomplishments** and honor those who have worked to achieve them.

Next month’s *Shop Talk* is our **Call to Annual Meeting**. Please read it carefully and bring it with you to the meeting – it will contain information and documents you’ll need in order to participate fully, including the proposed budget and the slate of officers.

Your **dues renewal** form will also be in the Call to Annual Meeting. All members who joined before January 1, 2010, must renew their memberships at this time. Finally, if you want to have a voice in the direction your League takes for the coming year, this is the **time to speak out!**



Glos Mansion—Elmhurst Historical Museum

**Green  
Retrofits for  
Energy  
Efficient  
Neighborhood  
Homes**

# Project Green

Sue Williams

The League is a member of Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition. Cool Cities and the City of Elmhurst looked into the energy usage of Elmhurst homes. **Homes in Elmhurst use more energy than most of Chicagoland and DuPage County.** In fact, we use 18% more natural gas than the rest of DuPage and 25% more electricity than the rest of the Chicagoland area.

Cool Cities' purpose is to reduce our carbon footprint and educate the public. With this in mind, Project GREEN was created. The average citizen would like to reduce their utility bill, increase their comfort level, and improve the environment. Project GREEN has put together information for the public and an action plan to accomplish this goal.

**The first step is a Whole House Energy Audit** to assess how improvements to all of your home's systems can work together to deliver real energy efficiency, cost savings and comfort. If starting smaller meets your needs, the Elmhurst Library has Kill-a-Watts and thermal leak detectors for check-out.

Project GREEN will direct you to qualified contractors for the improvements identified by the audit or direct you to do-it-yourself websites. For lower income homeowners and tenants, the website will direct you to the DuPage County Weatherization program. The typical Elmhurst home retrofit budget is \$2500-\$5000. Retrofit energy savings are projected at 10%-30%.

If you plan to finance your retrofit, homeowners can obtain short term loans for \$5,000-\$8,000. Several local banks are approving this program with their board of directors. The banks will determine rates, qualifications, and terms of the loan.

Once the work has been completed by a contractor, **a second Whole House Energy Audit is necessary** to be completed by a third party auditor. If the second audit shows that all of the work has been completed properly, the contractor will receive final payment.

Our website, [www.ElmhurstCoolCities.org](http://www.ElmhurstCoolCities.org) is currently under construction but will be up and running at the beginning of April. Join us on Earth Day, April 22, for our League meeting which will feature a presentation and a question and answer session on Project **GREEN**.

## Great Decisions

Barbara Swords

**GREAT DECISIONS** will have its second meeting of 2010 on Tuesday, April 13, at 1 p.m. at the home of Barbara Swords.

The discussion will be based on the presentation in Chapter 2, "Halting atrocities in Kenya." But, the focus of the discussion will be on **the question of meaningful intervention by members of the international community in the internal affairs of a nation**, seemingly unable to protect its citizens from violence, genocide, and displacement.

Such moments for intervention (or failure to intervene) have occurred in Cambodia, Rwanda, Srebrenica . Situations today in Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zimbabwe also present opportunities for R2P — "responsibility to protect." Serious issues surround these matters.

We welcome new members and hope to see you on April 13.

## Early School Leavers Program

Jan Dornier



Twice a year since 2000 Jan Dornier has been visiting the classroom of Crystal Scott at the Technology Center of DuPage (formerly called DAVEA). Ms. Scott

is involved in a federally funded grant program for young people who have dropped out of high school.

Job training as well as study sessions for the Constitution test and GED are offered. Ms. Scott has invited the League to the classroom to help these returning students with the parts of the Constitution test involving voter registration and voting. Since class time is limited to one hour per day, the discussion on voting is limited to stressing the importance of voting and being an informed voter. Jan also registers eligible students, as she did on February 9. (See picture above.).

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Sue Williams, Membership Chair

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Please welcome our new members and add them to your directory.

Julie Bentz  
Mary Harrell

Everyone had a nice time at our Membership Event on March 18, discussing current issues and enjoying the wonderful pastries at Cafe Amano.

## FINANCE DRIVE UPDATE

Connie Zillig, Treasurer

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Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Finance Drive. To date we have raised \$2,150. Of this amount, \$1,440 was designated for the Education Fund. This fund is held for us by the LWV of Illinois and was established as a separate tax-exempt organization with a 501(c)(3) status.

**The purpose of the Education Fund is to allow Leagues to raise tax-deductible contributions for educational, non-advocacy projects such as voter service forums or debates, educational public meetings, programs that discuss issues in an unbiased way, and observer corps.** In addition, we may satisfy up to 50 percent of our national LWV PMP (per member payment) obligation and 25 percent of our state LWV PMP obligation with Education Fund donations.

The remaining Finance Drive donations, \$750 to date, will be used by the Elmhurst League for normal operating expenses and advocacy work. This includes *Shop Talk* and *Observer Reports* printing and mailing, leadership training, membership drives, and the ongoing business of running the League.

**Additional donations are still welcome and needed.** To contribute to the General Fund please make your check payable to the LWV of Elmhurst. If you prefer a tax deduction, your donation to the Education Fund needs to be payable to the LWVIL Education Fund. All checks should be mailed to LWV of Elmhurst, P.O. Box 12, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

## PHONATHON RESULTS

Donna Blue, VP, Development

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Thanks to everyone who made calls for the LWVIL Phonathon – **Connie Zillig, Jan Dorner, Sue Williams, Jeanne Davik, and Donna Blue.** We raised over \$600 in pledges for the Illinois League, and 15% of those actually paid come back to our local League.

## REPORTS from LWVIL ISSUES BRIEFING

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### ◆ Redistricting Workshop ◆ Donna Blue ◆

Redistricting is the process by which legislative maps are drawn after each decennial census to reflect changes in population. The current redistricting process in Illinois is arcane and not transparent, and it frequently creates illogical, gerrymandered legislative districts that virtually guarantee re-election for incumbents (*98% of incumbents have won in recent elections*).

Because the Illinois General Assembly has failed to agree on a best way to reform the current process, the League has committed to redistricting reform via the Illinois Fair Map Amendment Initiative. The drafters of this Amendment believe that the redistricting process should **ensure the Constitutional protections in the Voting Rights Act, independence in map making, transparency and openness to the public, and public participation in the process.** The Amendment was based initially on a proposal recommended by Governor Quinn's Illinois Reform Commission, chaired by former U.S. Attorney Patrick Collins, and revised by input from LWVIL, the Brennan Center for Justice, Reform Commission members, and others.

To get the Amendment on the November 2, 2010, General Election ballot, organizers must collect nearly 300,00 valid signatures. They have targeted 500,00 signatures as their goal to ensure that the required number of valid signatures is reached. Petition submission deadlines are April 20 (LWVIL) and May 2 (State of Illinois).

### ◆ Term Limits Workshop ◆ Jan Dorner ◆

Terry Pastika, Executive Director of the Citizen Advocacy Center and State Senator Michael Noland, as well as LWVIL Issue Specialist Paula Lawson, discussed the idea of term limits for the leaders in the Illinois legislature. Generally, the citizenry likes the idea of term limits, and in the 1990s about 20 states enacted legislation instituting term limits for their Governor and/or Legislature. But, there is a "training period" necessary for a public official, and institutional memory may be lost with the continual turnover. State Senator Noland was hesitant to support the global idea of term limits but said he would consider it for legislative leaders.

What is the goal of term limits? Is there an alternative to term limits? The workshop proceeded with a discussion of **Recall.** The November ballot will contain a proposition to amend the IL Constitution to allow recall of the Governor. *Reason to support Recall:* It is direct democracy. *Reasons not to support Recall:* The threat of recall could reduce independence, and more times than not, the funding of recall efforts comes from special interests.

## Upcoming League Events:

April 1: Census Day. View the Countdown Clock at [www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org)

April 13, 1 pm: Great Decisions. Home of Barbara Swords.

April 17, 9 am: Board Meeting. Home of Gail Anderson.

April 22, 7 pm: LWV Elmhurst Monthly Meeting, Elmhurst Public Library  
Earth Day. Topic: *Energy Audit & Project Green*.

May 20, 7 pm: Annual Meeting. Elmhurst Historical Society.

June 2, Noon: State of the State. Union League Club.  
Speaker: Patrick Collins

June 11 – 15: LWWUS Convention. Atlanta, GA.

July 31, 10 am—3 pm: Third Annual Elmhurst Green Fest



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[www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org)