



The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst

Founded in 1932

Shop Talk

Volume 63, #5
April, 2012
Laura Kratz, Editor
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Two Events Scheduled for April

Wine, Women andActivism!
Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 7 pm - 9 pm

Wine Tasting for members and potential members
Tannin's Wine Bar & Boutique
112 N. York Street, Elmhurst
Invitations with event details will be mailed to members in the near future.

Learn more about TIFs: Tax Incremental Financing
Thursday, April 19, 2012, 7 pm - 9 pm

Elmhurst Public Library at 7:00 pm.
TIFs are in the headlines again. Join us for a discussion of the issues with
Elmhurst's City Manager, Jim Grabowsk, and the Assistant Director of Finance, Tom Trosein.

What's Ahead for Elmhurst LWV

May 1st **Lt. Governor Sheila Simon** will be the speaker at the LWV Illinois State of the State luncheon at the Union League Club in Chicago. A formal invitation and ticket information will be coming from the LWVIL. Meanwhile, if you are interested in carpooling with other Elmhurst members, please contact either Donna Blue or Dorothy McGuire.

May 7th - **Elmhurst LWV Annual Meeting** The location, time, and meeting materials will be included in the Call to Annual Meeting.

Illinois Pension Reform is a hot topic in Illinois given the state's dire financial situation. The Illinois LWV adopted this issue as a study item at our convention last year. If members reach consensus as a result of the study, we will be considering a new advocacy position on pension reform at our state convention in 2013.

In preparation for this process, a state committee has been preparing a framework for the study, background material, resources, and consensus questions. Their initial work is expected to be

completed this spring and study material to be distributed to local Leagues in May. If the Elmhurst League participates in the study, we'll need a chairman and committee to review the study material, plan a fall program on the subject, and take an active role in the consensus process in the fall.

Issue studies are a core component of what League is all about - being informed, active participants in democracy. Not only do they give us in-depth understanding of the issues, our consensus process lets us practice the art of listening respectfully to opposing views, discussing issues in a civil manner, and finding areas of common ground.

As League members, please consider participating in this vital process - either as chairman or as a member of the study committee. You may indicate your interest on your membership renewal form or contact our President, Susan Rose.

March Primary Election Recap

Candidate Forum and Voters Guide -- Sue Whitworth, Voter Service

To educate voters for the March 20th Primary Elections, a Candidate Forum was hosted in the Frick Center at Elmhurst College on February 12th from 1:00 - 4:30.

Republican Candidates for State Senate District 24, Kirk Dillard and Chris Nybo participated in the first segment, moderated by Lori Miller from the Wheaton League. The forum began with 5 questions prepared by LWV Elmhurst members, then guest panelists representing the community each asked one question. The panel included: **Laura Maniola** PTA Council, **Jim O'Malley** Retired Triton College professor, **Andrea Kmak** Elmhurst College Political Science major, **Connie Mixon**, Director of Urban Studies at Elmhurst College, and **Jane Leonardo**, Tannins Wine Shop owner, Written questions were also taken from the audience.

Susan Rose then presented information (including a hand out) on the Electric Aggregation Referendum that also appeared on the March 20th ballot.

The final segment covered the Republican primary candidates for DuPage County Board, District 2 and was moderated by Susan Rose. Candidates Pete DiCianni, Sean Noonan, Rafael Rivadeneira, Michael Loftus, Elaine Zannis, Zachary Wilson and Charles Mueller candidates responded to 5 prepared questions from the Elmhurst League and written questions from the audience.

The forum was videotaped and broadcast on Comcast channel 6 in March and on our website. The Addison cable group also sent a crew to cover the Senate portion of the forum it was covered by the *Elmhurst Patch* and *The Elmhurst Independent*.

Special thanks to the 5 York High School students who volunteered their time to serve as ushers at the event, **Caroline Dierksheide, Jack Howard, Evan Fabry, Jake Pulver, and Molly O'Halloran.**

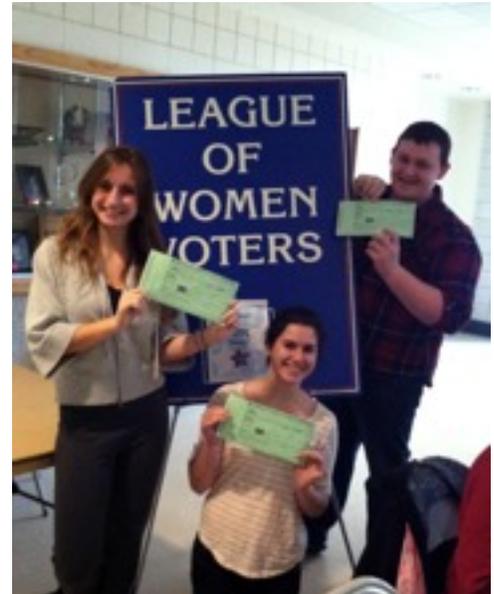
I want to thank all of the League members that helped in the preparation and the day forum. Every board member helped in some way with the forum and I truly appreciate the support.

Voter Registration - Maria Hirsch

York High School seniors, Anastasia Gliatis, Kari Frantzis, and Deane Wagner, proudly display their new status as registered voters on February 10th.

In the lead up to the March 20 primary, 16 LWV Elmhurst volunteers registered 125 voters at 19 events throughout the city. In addition to York High School, the registration drive included local preschools, the Wagner Community Center, and the Elmhurst Public Library.

Photo by Matt Slowek



Electric Aggregation Referendum Forum

Also in preparation for the March primaries, the Cool Cities Coalition hosted a community forum on the Electric Aggregation referendum. If approved by the voters, the City of Elmhurst would become authorized to negotiate with electric suppliers on behalf of residents and small businesses. LWV's Laura Kratz moderated the March 6 forum that featured Sharon Durling, Director of Marketing with the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative and Tom Trosien, Assistant Director of Finance for the City of Elmhurst. Sponsoring organizations included the Elmhurst LWV, Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition and Elmhurst AAUW. Note: The referendum passed by a 2 to 1 margin.

Thanks to Dannee Polomsky

By the time you read this newsletter, the newest addition to the Polomsky family will have arrived and Dannee will be busier than ever. The Elmhurst League is grateful to her for serving so willingly and ably as our *Shop Talk* Editor these past four years.

This is the last edition of Shop Talk for the 2011-2012 activity year. Next month, you will receive the Call to Annual Meeting with all the information you need to make informed decisions about the future direction of our League - slate of officers, program recommendations, proposed budget - and a recap of the past year's activities.

Living Green

News from SCARCE - School and Community Assistance for Composting and Recycling Education

Elmhurst College Recycling Extravaganza

April 14th

Check the SCARCE website www.scarcecoed.org for times and to see which items will be accepted.

Goodwill Industries Introduces Textile Recycling

The next time you have jeans with too many holes, frayed towels, old sheets, clothes with broken zippers or missing buttons, stained shirts, or old shoes...think of Goodwill.

Goodwill has established relationships with companies in need of your worn out clothes and textiles. Your clothes that are not good for "re-wearing" can be used to make felt, stereo speaker fabric, carpeting, insulation and industrial rags.

Goodwill will be sorting textiles for reuse as well as for true recycling. This is a big breakthrough for America in recycling.

This spring many of the SCARCE recycling extravaganzas throughout the county will have Goodwill trucks to accept your re-wearable clothes and shoes as well as the worn out clothes, shoes and textiles.

Annual Prairie Path & Great Western Trail Clean Up

Saturday, April 28 9:00am

Head on out, rain or shine, to help clean up our Prairie Path and Great Western Trail. Volunteers are needed to pick up trash along any part of either path. [Sign up online](#) to volunteer for the [Prairie Path](#) or [Great Western](#).

It's Time to Renew Your League of Women Voters Membership

Tonja Pastorelle and Colette Kubiesa, Membership

Please be sure to remit your dues for 2012-2013 and sign up to be part of the coming year's activities. You may bring your payment and completed membership form to the Annual meeting on May 7th. The form and payment may also be mailed or you may renew online at www.lwvelmhurst.org.



The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst, Illinois Annual Membership 2012-2013 **Join Us!**



One year membership levels:

- \$250 Patron
- \$200 Benefactor
- \$150 Advocate
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$90 Two-Member Household
- \$75 Supporter (Please consider increasing to this level)**
- \$65 Basic Membership
- \$30 Student
- \$_____ Additional Contribution**

Please make check payable to: [The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst](#)

Please bring this form to the annual meeting or mail to: LWV Elmhurst, PO Box 12, Elmhurst, IL 60126
or renew online at www.lwvelmhurst.org

Your Current Information (if no changes from last year, please indicate same)

Name(s)

Address

City State Zip Code

Email - Required to receive Observer Reports & Shop Talk Phone (Day) Phone (Evening)

What are your interests? Choose several! We need your voice!

- Sustainability/Environment
- Study on Pensions (New!)**
- Membership
- Candidate Forums
- Great Decisions Foreign Policy
- Hospitality
- Phone Calling
- Student Voter Activities
- Programs
- Voter Registration
- Ways & Means
- Writing Articles

We need observers! [Observer Corps members attend meetings and write summaries for our Observer Reports](#)

City Council Library Park District School District Where needed



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