



Shop Talk

*A publication of
the League of
Women Voters of
Elmhurst.*

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Visit us at lwvelmhurst.org

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Candidate Forum: Sunday, February 24, 1-5 pm Elmhurst City Hall, Council Chambers

In preparation for the Consolidated Election on April 9, the Elmhurst League is conducting a Candidate Forum for Elmhurst Mayor, City Council, Park District, and School Board.

Three candidates -- **Steve Morley**, **Diane Gutenkauf**, and **Mark Mulliner** -- are running for Mayor of Elmhurst.



Mayoral Candidates: Morley, Gutenkauf, and Mulliner

Four City Wards have contested races. Candidates are
Ward 1 - **Martha "Marti" Deuter**, **MaryNic Foster**
Ward 4 - **Mike Baker**, **Kevin York** (incumbent)
Ward 5 - **Robert Kevin "Bob" Kolb**, **Chris Healy** (incumbent)
Ward 7 - **Charles Mueller**, **Patrick Wagner** (incumbent)

The incumbents in Wards 2, 3, and 6 are running unopposed, and they will not be part of this forum.

Three candidates are seeking to fill two Park District seats: **Vince Spaeth**, **Patricia Morissette-Moll**, and **Doug Ennis**. Four candidates are running for three School Board seats: **Jim Collins**, **Alan J. Brinkmeier**, **Margaret D. Harrell**, and **Emily Bastedo**.

Forum moderators include Susan Rose, Jeanne Davik, and Lori Miller. The forum will be videotaped and broadcast on local government television stations. An online *Voters Guide* containing the candidates' written answers to League questions will be posted on our website lwvelmhurst.org.

Volunteer Help Needed for Three Candidate Forums

Volunteers for the Elmhurst League's forum on February 24 are still welcome. We have also been asked to assist Westmont with a candidate forum, tentatively scheduled for March 5 or 6. Several DuPage County Leagues, including Elmhurst, have been asked to help with a forum for College of DuPage candidates on March 19. If you are willing to help with any of these forums, contact Sue Whitworth voterservice@lwvelmhurst.org

President's Message - February 2013 State Program Planning: Choosing Our Issues



At our meeting on February 14 we will be participating in **State Program Planning** and invite all members to attend (♥ special Valentine's goodies for all are included ♥). The purpose of this meeting is to participate in shaping the state League's public policy program, for adoption as the 2013-2015 LWVIL Program at the State Convention.

We will be reviewing current LWVIL positions to consider if the goals of the position have been met, if there is still member interest, and if the position is still relevant, making recommendations to either retain, update, or drop a position. We will then make recommendations on any new study or action focus items.

We value the opinions of all our membership as it is the process of consensus that makes us strong. Please plan to attend this meeting at the home of Dorothy McGuire, 6:30 – 9 pm. Email Dorothy at secretary@lwvelmhurst.org if you plan to attend.

State League Advocacy: GRIT

GRIT = Graduated Rate Income Tax. The League of Women Voters of Illinois and its local Leagues have joined with numerous organizations in Illinois to put a **Constitutional Amendment** on the November 2014 ballot that will allow a graduated rate income tax revenue system in Illinois. To get this on the ballot, three-fifths of our Illinois lawmakers must vote to allow it, and they must do so by May 2014 or earlier.

The flat income tax, which we have now, is regressive, putting an undue burden on middle and low income families to fund the basic necessities of our state. The 'flat income tax' is not flat at all. It permits Illinois' highest income earners to pay an average income tax rate of 2.1% while middle class families pay a 4% rate. Furthermore, when one adds in property taxes, sales taxes, and excise taxes, the overall tax responsibility of the top 1% of income earners is 2-3 times less than the rest of us.



Establishing a graduated rate income tax in Illinois means we can provide services we need, reduce the state's debt, and grow our economy. Under one model, the graduated rate income tax could raise \$2.4 **Billion** in new revenue while cutting taxes for up to 94% of Illinois taxpayers. Additional information on the GRIT campaign is available on the State League website. For Article #1 copy this address into your browser:

http://www.lwvil.org/SBR%20Jan%202013/GRIT_Article1.pdf

For Article #2 copy this address into your browser:

http://www.lwvil.org/SBR%20Jan%202013/GRIT_Article2.pdf

If you are interested in working on this issue, send an email to Laura Kratz at issues@lwvil.org.

National & State League Advocacy: Gun Control

On January 10, the League of Women Voters of the United States sent a letter to Vice President Biden, who led a panel looking at gun violence, urging him to propose methods to help stem the tide of senseless gun violence in this country. The League has a long-standing position in support of gun control. Since 1990, we have lobbied in support of banning assault weapons, requiring all dealers to run criminal background checks at gun shows, and opposing laws that grant special protection for the gun industry.

Gun Control is, of course, a State issue also. **House Bill 1263**, sponsored by Senator Antonio Munoz, would ban the possession and sale of military style assault weapons in Illinois. **House Bill 815**, sponsored by Senator Dan Kotowski, would ban the sale and possession of high capacity ammunition magazines. So far, no vote. There is some good news: On January 8 Attorney General Lisa Madigan announced that she had filed a petition asking the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals to review the three-judge panel's decision declaring Illinois' ban on the concealed carry of firearms in public as unconstitutional.

New Member, New Observer, New Baby!

Please welcome our new members, the **Noel Talluto** Family. We also welcome Noel to our Observer Corps as a new observer of Elmhurst City Council. And we congratulate Noel on the birth of her 4th child, Carter Jonah Talluto, on January 8, 2013. He was born the DAY AFTER she observed her first City Council meeting. (Are these two events somehow related?) In any event, Noel says she will be back in February!

Remembering LWV Elmhurst Member, Corinne Johnson (1930 - 2011)

by Martha Eaton



Corinne was an active and valued member of the League. She participated in the "Great Decisions" discussion group on foreign affairs and other study groups on issues. She wrote New Member Profiles for *Shop Talk*. She served on the Board, on the Nominating Committee, and in various off-Board chairmanships.

Corinne championed the League's position of non-partisanship. She firmly believed that League's policy positions should be supported through study and discussion. Her knowledge and outreach inspired many.

Editor's Note: What brought Corinne's League work to mind was an "In Memoriam" tribute to Corinne that Martha's daughter saw in a Chicago Shakespeare Theater program. Background information included the fact that Corinne had been a teacher at York High School in Elmhurst for 32 years. She had been a Chicago Shakespeare subscriber for over two decades and was an active participant and financial supporter of their educational programs.

Final Notes, Short and Sweet:

- **MEMBERSHIP:** If you or a friend is interested in joining the LWV, go to lwvelmhurst.org. Click on the blue tab: JOIN LWV. Complete the online form and click **Submit** This will take you to a secure payment page. If you prefer, print the form and mail it to LWV Elmhurst, PO Box 12, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Contact **Sue Williams** (membership@lwvelmhurst.org) to update your address, phone number or email address.
- **LWVIL ISSUES BRIEFING** is Saturday, February 9, 8:30 am - 3 pm, University Center, Chicago. Contact Susan Rose (president@lwvelmhurst.org) if you are interested in carpooling to this event.
- **LWVIL BIENNIUM CONVENTION** will be held on June 7-9, 2013, at the Marriot in Bloomington/Normal. The convention committee has been hard at work for several months already and is very excited about the 2013 Convention. All members are encouraged to attend, so please consider it! You can read about the Convention plans here: <http://www.lwvil.org/convention2013.asp>
- **COOL CITIES:** Look for Cool Cities members in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Green Fest is back! The Cool Cities group is excited to be working with the Park District, which plans to revitalize Green Fest this year.
- **WEBSITE:** Visit our website, lwvelmhurst.org, regularly for all the latest info on our issues and events.