



Shop Talk

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

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Visit us at website lwvelmhurst.org

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Immigration in DuPage County



Join us for our January program on Immigration:
Thursday, January 16, 7 pm, at the Elmhurst Public Library.

Emily Gray, Executive Director of World Relief DuPage/Aurora, will be the presenter. World Relief serves 5500 refugees and immigrants each year. They began offering services in DuPage County in 1979. An office was opened in Aurora in 1999. World Relief seeks to create, lead, and improve services with local churches and the community to help those who are most vulnerable, economically and socially.

In June 2007, the League of Women Voters of Illinois adopted its position on Immigration, and the LWVUS position followed in July 2008. The League supports specific State and local community services for all immigrants and opposes extending voting rights to undocumented immigrants. For further information, see <http://www.lwvil.org/uploads/1/5/9/8/15985276/immigration.pdf> and <http://www.lwv.org/content/immigration>.

Be sure to come for the social time 30 minutes prior to the presentation, and **Invite Friends!** *LWV members who bring a guest to our January 16 meeting will receive a gift card for Elijah's Coffee and Tea, valued at \$5.*

Voter Registration - February 18 Deadline

Attention all deputy registrars! Begin thinking about 2014 when we have until February 18th to register voters. The Illinois General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, the "Suffrage @ 17" bill (HB 226 which became Public Act 98-0051). It allows 17-year-olds to register and vote in the Primary if they will be 18 by the General Election. This means that most seniors and some juniors in High School will be eligible to register and vote this coming March 18. If you are a deputy registrar, we need your help in registering these voters.



We already are scheduled to **register 500 seniors at Glenbard East High School** on January 30 and 31 between 10 am and 1:30 pm. Please contact Jan Dorner publicity@lwvelmhurst.org if you are able to help with this project. Many hands make light work (although it may not be such light work...). We are also in contact with York High School and plan to contact Elmhurst Public Library to schedule voter registrations in those locations as well.

President's Post: Sue Whitworth

Sally Hoffman was again our gracious host for the LWV-Elmhurst holiday party. It was a lovely relaxing afternoon. Thank you again, Sally.



In December I attended an Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition presentation by Prairie Food Co-Op based out of Lombard. The Co-Op is planning a **community-owned grocery store, providing year-round local, organic, and sustainable food.** They hope to get food from farmers within a 300 to 500 mile radius. The plan is to open a store in the Lombard area that would be open to the public -- and would also add jobs to our County.

Food Co-ops can be healthy for the environment, not just by obtaining locally grown and produced meat and produce. Their recycling numbers are impressive as well. The stores tend to recycle approximately 81% of their plastic, 96% of their cardboard, 70% of the scrap created.

There are currently seven similar co-ops being developed in the Chicagoland area. The Prairie Food Co-op is modeled after Common Ground Co-op in Urbana, IL. The development process can take 2-3 years. P.F.C. owners have grown to over 110 members in the last 3-4 months. The desired group is 200-300 members.

Why join when you could just shop for free? Each member has a vote in the process, location, farmers and operation. For \$200 your family could be part of this co-op. Take a look at their website for more information: prairiefood.coop.

Looking Ahead:

- **Saturday, February 1:** LWVIL's Annual **Issues Briefing**. University Center, 525 South State Street, Chicago. Topics include redistricting, fracking (hydraulic fracturing), charter schools, GRIT, healthcare, the Stormwater project. [More Info and Online Registration](#).
- **Later in February:** Candidate forum sponsored by the Elmhurst League, covering a local race in the March Primary Election. Plans are in progress. Watch your email and our website for details.
- **Thursday, February 27:** Republican gubernatorial candidate **primary debate**. As in past years, LWVIL will be working with ABC, Channel 7. Take advantage of this excellent opportunity to arrange "watching parties." Invite Leaguers and friends to watch the debates together.

Visit our website www.lwvelmhurst.org for the latest information on our issues and events, as well as current and past issues of **Observer Reports** and **Shop Talk**, which you can print.

Read the December **Illinois League E-News** here: http://www.lwvil.org/uploads/1/5/9/8/15985276/e-news_2013.12.16.pdf

LWVUS (National League) is currently accepting suggestions for advocacy priorities for 2014. Deadline is January 11, and email is welcome from **individual members**. Send your ideas directly to the LWVUS [Advocacy Chair, Toni Larson](#).