



# The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst

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

Volume 60, #7  
March 2009  
Laura Kratz, Editor  
[shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org](mailto:shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org)

## Shop Talk

### Coping With Disaster in Somaliland

**Mark Dyer, ShelterBox Aide Worker, Rotary International**  
**Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Elmhurst Public Library**

Elmhurst resident Mark Dyer will share his experiences in Somaliland in Africa where he has just completed his first assignment with ShelterBox. This Rotary International program brings shelter and supplies to people displaced by disasters worldwide. Since 2001 they have helped victims of more than 80 disasters in 52 countries. March is Women's History Month and we will consider the ways disasters – natural and man-made – particularly impact women and children.

**Great Decisions**  
Barbara Swords

**Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 9:15 am**  
At the home of Barbara Swords

We cancelled the February 5 meeting due to illness. Thus, we begin the 2009 year in March. We will discuss Chapter 1 in our new 2009 book: "The U.S. and Rising Powers".

Please call or e-mail Barbara to say that you will attend. We all look forward to beginning our 2009 discussions.

### Voter Services for the Consolidated Municipal Election, April 7, 2009

**LWV Elmhurst Online Voters' Guide**  
Cheri Niewiara and Jeanne Davik

Our popular guide will be operational March 8<sup>th</sup> at [www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org). The Guide will include candidates' written responses to questions composed by the League. For the first time you will also be able to see video of our successful February 22 Candidate Forum. The video will allow you to skip directly to the portions of the forum that interest you the most.

**Voter Registration**  
Myrrha Guzman

We are scheduled to register voters at the Elmhurst Public Library on **Saturday, March 7, 2009**, from 1 pm to 4 pm. We do need just a few volunteers, but I'm hoping to have at least 2 people sitting at any given time. Also, just a reminder that if you did not get recertified for the new appointment term, please contact the DuPage County Election Commission.

## *President's Corner*

Kudos and much appreciation are extended to **Cheri Niewiara**, Voter Service Director, and all the volunteers for their efforts in organizing and executing the very successful Candidate Forum on February 22 for the Consolidated Election (April 7). What a great service to the community.

Being a member of the League offers many opportunities for civic involvement, learning, and making new friends. However, as with most organizations, only a small portion of members become actively involved as officers and in working on projects. Of course, members' dues provide vital financial support for local, state, and national League organizations, and this support is very much appreciated. Further involvement with your League is also greatly appreciated. Please consider volunteering when calls are made in *Shop Talk* to help with projects. Or just contact a Board member and let us know you would like to help out. League members are great to work with, and the feeling of satisfaction in contributing to the community is rewarding.

With all the demands members have on their time and energy, some may feel that they cannot now volunteer to serve as officers or work on committees. If you are in this situation, how can you further contribute to the League's mission to

encourage informed and active participation in government, to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy? Here are some suggestions for your consideration.

- ❖ First, surely, is to be an informed voter yourself. Attend League events, such our programs and candidate forums, and Great Decisions discussions. Make an effort to become more informed about a local, state, or national issue.
- ❖ Communicate with your legislative representative about issues you care about.
- ❖ Become a voter registrar and participate in our voter registration drives; this is easy and doesn't take a lot of time.
- ❖ Share your League information with friends, relatives and colleagues.
- ❖ Think about why you joined the League and encourage a friend to join.

This month please welcome our new member, **Sharon DePrizio**.

Happy March! Thank you to all members for your support of the League and its mission.

*Donna Blue*

## **League Action and Advocacy**

Illinois House Bill 48 amends the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act by requiring individuals who are not licensed firearm dealers, when selling or buying a firearm that is small enough to be concealed, to work with a licensed dealer. The licensed dealer would then conduct a background check on the buyer. The law makes exceptions for intra-family transfers, gun show sales, and transfers due to court orders.

### **Rep. Bob Biggins, District 41**

On February 13, 2009, Elmhurst LWV members **Jan Dorner, Charles Mueller, and Cathy Ficker Terrill**, with some members of the Illinois Campaign to prevent Gun Violence, met with Mr. Biggins to discuss HB 48. He informed us he did not and will not be supporting this bill. No reason was given.

## **Legislative Interviews**

### **Rep. Dennis Reboletti, District 46**

A meeting on HB 48 is scheduled with Mr. Reboletti on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at his Addison office, 50 East Oak Street, Suite 250. Please contact **Jan Vanek** or **Laura Kratz** if you would like to participate. We will meet at a local restaurant beforehand with Michelle Jordan of the Illinois League.

## Candidate Forum Report

Cheri Niewiara

## Voter Service

Sunday, February 22nd, we hosted a candidate forum in the Elmhurst City Council chambers. We featured candidates running for College Of DuPage Board of Trustees, Elmhurst Park Board, City Clerk, District 205 Board of Education, Aldermen, and Mayor.

There were 32 candidates in attendance and we divided the races into four separate forum groups with different moderators. Roughly 175 potential voters attended with some staying the whole time and others watching one or two groups. Many attendees commented on how impressed they were with their first visit up the stairs of our City Hall. Candidates commented that they enjoyed being on the dais and appreciated having individual microphones.

This year we continued the practice of providing the audience with the forum questions that candidates had been given in advance. New this year, we also gave audience members the additional questions for the Voter Guide which will be on our website on our after March 8th. Candidates who were unable to attend the forum but voiced their desire to participate in the

online Voters' Guide have received instructions for doing so. All candidate responses are due March 1<sup>st</sup> and will be posted on our website March 8<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the Voters' Guide on the website, you will be able to watch all or parts of the forum thanks to the efforts of our Webmaster, Jeanne Davik. In addition, the forum will be rebroadcast during March on Comcast government access channel 6. We will email members when we have the schedule.

We had a wonderful number of volunteers this year. Many thanks to our League members: **Gail Anderson, Donna Blue, Jeanne Davik, Sharon DePrizio, Jan Dorner, Cathy Ficker Terrill, Myrrha Guzman, Milt Honel, Laura Kratz, Dorothy McGuire, Charles Mueller, Maureen Polte, Dannee Polomsky, Sue Williams, and Jan Vanek.**

We also thank our community volunteers: **Chris Balandrin, Maureen Fischer and Chelle O'Connell.**

## Membership

Sue Williams

Please welcome our newest member and add her contact information to your directory: **Sharon DePrizio**

## Community Event

Climate Change and Global Warming

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at Noon**

1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, 235 S. Kenilworth

Kent Taylor, an authorized and trained *Inconvenient Truth* presenter, will show an updated version of former Vice President Al Gore's slide presentation and answer questions to foster a complete understanding of the science behind climate change and how we can address

the problem. There will be an optional "green lunch" at 11:30 am (free will donation) and the program will begin at noon. Please call 630-832-2580 for lunch reservations or if you need child care. You are welcome to come at noon just for the program.

On Monday, February 2, 2009 the Elmhurst City Council adopted a new policy on city initiatives towards carbon reduction and sustainable policies. Establishment of such a policy was a goal of the Cool Cities Coalition, especially reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

Elmhurst LWV members **Laura Kratz** and **Jan Vanek**, along with other Coalition members, assisted City staff with drafting the policy. After several months of review by the Development, Planning and Zoning Committee and the Public Affairs and Safety Committee, the final policy was presented to the full council where it passed unanimously.

### **Statement of Policy**

*The city of Elmhurst is dedicated to the enhancement and protection of the immediate and long term well-being of the City, its citizens, and its natural environment. To that end, the City of Elmhurst will consider sustainable environmental practices as an integral component of its leadership role in the community*

*The City of Elmhurst will continue to face the challenge of maintaining the core water, wastewater, public safety, and all other community services that have been commonly accepted as the City responsibilities. At the same time the City will strive to protect and enhance Elmhurst's environmental quality, economy, and livability. The City is committed to incorporating proven new technologies that result in reducing energy demands,; to use the most environmentally responsible products in its daily operations and to address critical local environmental issues when developing new City programs and initiatives which take on particular urgency in light of serious global environmental concerns. The City will seek to be an active partner with other civic organizations and public agencies within the City (Park Districts, School Districts, Library and Historical Foundation) to achieve sustainable policies and goals.*

### **Guidelines for Implementation**

*The concept of sustainability guides City policy.*

*Protection, preservation, and restoration of the natural environment are high priorities of the City.*

*Environmental quality, economic health and social quality are mutually dependent.*

*All decisions have implications for the long-term sustainability of Elmhurst.*

*Community awareness, responsibility, participation, and education are key elements of a sustainable community.*

*Elmhurst recognizes its linkage with the regional, national, and global community.*

*Those sustainability issues most important to the community will be addressed first, and the most cost-effective programs and policies will be selected.*

*The city is committed to procurement decisions which minimize negative environmental and social impacts*

*Cross sector partnerships are necessary to achieve sustainable goals.*

### **Specific Steps the City of Elmhurst Will Take to Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions**

- Review electrical purchases to maximize power generated from sustainable sources such as wind, bio-fuels, and solar
- Reduce automobile use and establishing idling guidelines for municipal vehicles
- Use low volatile emission paints, cleaning products, adhesives, and other chemical additives
- Reduce dependence on carbon dioxide producing fossil fuels
- Support mass transit and create a safe environment for walking and bicycling

## Directory/Yearbook Updates

Jan Dorner

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Since the November elections, following are directory updates. More will be coming after the April 7<sup>th</sup> elections.

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### **District 1**

Rita Gonzalez (2012)  
534 N. Valerie Lane, # 6  
Addison, IL 60101  
456-1792  
rita.gonzalez@dupageco.org

### **District 2**

Patrick O'Shea (2012)  
10 W. St. Charles Road  
Lombard, IL 60148  
620-8551 (office)

Paul Fichtner (2012)

325 Prospect  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
251-7883 (cell)  
PFichtner@dupageco.org

Brien Sheahan (2012)

5 St. Regis Court  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
728-4641  
bsheahan@dupageco.org

Donald E. Puchalski (2010)

1029 Compton Point  
Addison, Illinois 60101  
543-2320  
dpuchalski@dupageco.org

Jeff Redick (2010)

851 Princeton Ct.  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
607-9681 (cell)  
jredick@dupageco.org

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Remove Rod Blagojevich as Governor and replace with:

**Pat Quinn** <http://www.standingupforillinois.org/contact/>

And the Springfield phone number as Phone: **217-782-0244**

### **Remove the Lt. Governor section**

Page 35 –

Remove George W. Bush as President and replace with:

**Barack Obama** same contact info as President Bush

Remove Barack Obama as Senator and replace with:

**Roland W. Burris**

523 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2854

Senator\_RolandBurris@Burris.Senate.Gov  
same Chicago contact info as Senator Obama

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**      **Great Decisions**      **At the home of Barbara Swords, 9:15 am**
- Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**      **IL 46<sup>th</sup> District Legislative Interview with Dennis Reboletti**  
50 East Oak Street, Suite 250, Addison at 1:00 pm
- Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**      **Voter Registration**      **At the Elmhurst Public Library, 1 pm to 4 pm.**
- Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**      **Online Voters' Guide will be operational at [www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org)**
- Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**      **Climate Change and Global Warming: *The Inconvenient Truth***  
**PowerPoint Presented by Kent Taylor**  
First Congregational Church, 235 S. Kenilworth  
"Green Lunch" at 11:30 am; Presentation at Noon
- Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**      **Elmhurst LWV Monthly Meeting:**  
**Coping With Disaster in Somaliland, Presentation by Mark Dyer**  
Elmhurst Public Library at 7:00 pm

*Mark your Calendar: Consolidated Municipal Elections are Tuesday, April 7, 2009*



LWV Elmhurst  
P.O. Box 12  
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Visit us online at [www.lwvelmhurst.org](http://www.lwvelmhurst.org)