



# Shop Talk

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



## November Meetings to Focus on Education



*An exciting time for the Elmhurst League of Women Voters*

The Elmhurst League of Women Voters is participating in the 2011 Education Study. Our next meeting on **November 10, 2011** will address some of these study issues. Hosted by Elmhurst College, in the Bryant room of the Frick Center at 7:00 p.m., guest speakers Dr. Charles Johns, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Mr. Christopher Whelton, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, will present. Study materials are available on our website.

On **November 17, 2011**, our members meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss our findings and come to consensus.

Please invite your friends, neighbors and interested parties to our November 10, 2011 meeting. Check our website for a complete list of resource materials.

### **The Study:**

The scope of the study, as adopted by the League of Women Voters US Board, states: The Education Study scope is broad and includes the following areas under the role of the federal government in public education (preK through grade 12): the history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the common core standards/assessments which are required for many federal grant programs but are national, not federal. The culminating position will address only those issues delineated in the scope.

Although the study focuses on the federal government, the original intent of the study included the Common Core Standards. These were written and funded by the National Governors' Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Historically we have always had national standards written by the teaching organizations such as the National Council of Teachers of Math and the National Council of Teachers of English. However, the discussion here will focus upon how these new standards called Common Core State Standards will be used by the federal government.

*-Sue Williams*

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## Cool Cities



Meeting Dates:

2011: November 1 and December 6

2012: January 3, February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1,  
July 3 and August 7

Cool Cities met on September 28. Laura Kratz discussed the smart grid and current legislation. We are looking for members that would like to be part of the steering committee for Cool Cities.

Our focus for the 2011-2012 year include The Great Donation Day for 2012, Project Green, and green programs and workshops. Please invite any friends or neighbors that are interested in the environment to join us!

## Eco-Friendly Lawn Tips

The EPA launched a new series of videos to help spread ideas on healthy and environmentally friendly lawns. The videos are good for homeowners, civic groups, garden clubs and anyone else interested in healthy lawn care. Topics covered include watering, mowing, fertilizer use, runoff and more. Go to: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/lawncare>

## Green Tips

Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Naperville Fire Station #4  
1971 Brookdale Road, Naperville  
Open Saturdays and Sundays 9 am – 2 pm,  
excluding holidays

Residents from throughout DuPage County can drop-off HHW at the permanent collection site operated by the city of Naperville.

Accepted items include: Household cleaners, Drain opener, Paints (oil based only), Mineral spirits, Strippers, Solvents, Insecticides, Herbicides, Flammables, Automotive fluids, Fluorescent fixtures, Household batteries, Mercury, Unknown hazardous substances, unwanted medicine (prescription of over the counter)

Not accepted: Explosives, Ammunition, Radioactive materials, Compressed gas, Latex Paint, Trash and non-hazardous materials (small amounts of Latex Paint can be dried with an absorbent like sand or kitty litter and then placed out with regular garbage with the lid off the can)

*-Sue Williams*

## Candidate Forum is approaching

Mark your calendars for the upcoming candidate forum on February 12, 2012 1-5 at Elmhurst College. Participants TBA.

*-Sue Whitworth*

## Observers Needed!

Calling any interested party who would like to observe governmental bodies! We could use additional Observers, especially for the Elmhurst Park Board and the Elmhurst Public Library Board. Anyone who is interested, please contact Jan Dorner at [jdorner1@comcast.net](mailto:jdorner1@comcast.net).

*-Jan Dorner*

## *A letter from the President*

Hello Everyone,

The Elmhurst League will be participating in the national LWV Education Study during the month of November. We have several events planned and hope you are able to attend these.

First, we will be hosting a public forum on how the broader national changes in education currently and in the future will affect District #205. **Dr. Charles Johns, District 205 Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction** and **Mr. Christopher Whelton, District 205 Assistant Superintendent for Finance** will discuss issues related to curriculum and finance in Elmhurst public schools. This meeting will be held at in the Bryan Room in the Frick Student Center at Elmhurst College, on **Thursday, November 10, from 7 – 9 PM.**

This public forum is in preparation for the consensus meeting for members to be held on **Thursday, November 17 at the Elmhurst Public Library, from 7 – 9 PM.** At that time, we will discuss and try to reach consensus on the study questions developed by the national League of Women Voters. Some of the questions we will be considering include:

- What *should be* the role of the federal government in education?
- Should new Common Core Standards be mandated for all states as a requirement for federal funding?
- Should we adopt a national assessment protocol related to these Common Core Standards and what should we reasonably expect from this?
- What would be the role of a national assessment in evaluating student performance?

The questions related to this study require educating ourselves further, thoughtful preparation, and vigorous discussion in order to reach consensus. This is a topic of interest to all of us, whether we have children in the school system or not, as the education of our children is critical in maintaining and growing our democracy.

The League has prepared some excellent background material for our use which can be found on their website at <http://www.lwvil.org/2011EducationStudy.asp>. At this site, you can find special issues briefs as well as background papers relating to the study. Please take a look at these materials and any other information you have so we can have a substantive, informed discussion on November 17. We will need to reach consensus in order to send our views to the national League by **November 30.**

This might be a great opportunity to invite someone you know to our public forum. Take a moment and reach out to a neighbor who may have children in the schools, an educator you know, or someone who is interested in education and invite them to join us.

Please contact me or Program Chair Sue Williams if you have any questions. Contact Donna Blue if you need a ride to any of these events this month.

Finally, have a safe and happy Thanksgiving with friends and family.

Susan Rose  
President, Elmhurst League of Women Voters, Elmhurst

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## Program Information

Mark your Calendars



◆ **November 10** - The Role of the Federal Government in Education.

Dr. Charles Johns, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for District 205, will present on curriculum and finance

**November 17** - The Role of the Federal Government in Education Consensus Meeting: An opportunity to discuss the LWV's study and to come to consensus.

◆ **December 4** - Holiday Party. An afternoon gathering at 1:00 pm, at the home of Sally Hoffman. All members are encouraged to bring a spouse or a friend. Please bring a sweet or savory to share.

◆ **January 19** - Redistricting: Where we are in the LWVIL's Court Case and What does the Current Map Look Like? LWVIL President, Jan Dorner, will be our guest speaker.

◆ **February 12** - Candidate Forum, 1-5 pm at Elmhurst College

◆ **March 15** - Budgets and the Financial Crisis with a Local Focus.

◆ **April 19** - What are TIFs and Why do We Need Them?

◆ **May TBD** - Annual Meeting

-Sue Williams



## More to Come on Redistricting

In January, programming will focus on issues of redistricting. Jan Dorner will present the facts and rationale behind the suit filed in August.

“In a series of recent decisions the United States Supreme Court has upheld the First Amendment rights of corporations and wealthy candidates. Today we are asking a federal court in Chicago to uphold the First Amendment rights of the voters of Illinois. The longstanding Illinois practice of assigning voters to districts based on their political views and voting histories violates the First Amendment rights of our members and others throughout Illinois,” said LWVIL President Jan Dorner.

## Stay Informed

School Board meeting information: <http://www.boarddocs.com/il/elmhurst/Board.nsf/Public>

Park Board agendas and minutes: <http://www.epd.org/parkboard.asp>

Elmhurst City Council agendas and minutes: <http://www.elmhurst.org/index.aspx?NID=370>

City, school district and other community-focused videos can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/user/elmhursttv>

LWV observer reports: <http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/observerreports.asp>

## Great Decisions

Great Decisions will meet on Tuesdays, 1 p.m., at the home of Barbara Swords.

November 8: "The Caucasus"

December 13: "Making sense of Multilateralism"

New members are always welcome.

*-Barbara Swords*

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- ◆ Calendar

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