



# Shop Talk

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

## ★ Changes in Elmhurst League Leadership Bring New Roles ★

We thank Laura Kratz for her dedicated service as President and welcome Susan Rose in her new role.

*A letter from Susan Rose, LWV Elmhurst President, 2011-2013*

September, 2011

Hello All,

As the new President of the League of Women Voters of Elmhurst, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2011-2012 program year. We have an exciting year planned and hope you will be able to participate in some of the programs, consensus meetings, candidate forums, and the Annual Meeting.

Our programs this year are focused on both local and national issues of importance. In **November** we will be conducting a public meeting about curriculum and financial issues in District #205. This public meeting will be preparatory to a consensus meeting later in the month about the role of the federal government in education. We hope to reach consensus on study questions by the end of the month and add our voice to League members across the country.

In **December**, Sally Hoffman has again graciously offered to host a holiday gathering for all our League members at her home. This promises to be a fun event and we hope all members will be able to join us.

In **January**, Jan Dorner, President of the League of Women Voters of Illinois, will bring us up to date on the re-districting suit working its way through the courts. Despite the outcome of this

*(continued)*

### **LWV Elmhurst Board Members:**

#### **Officers**

Susan Rose, President  
2011-2013  
Donna Blue, 1st Vice  
President 2011-2013  
Sue Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
President – Program  
2010-2012  
Connie Zillig, Treasurer  
2010-2012  
Dorothy Maguire,  
Secretary 2011-2013

#### **Directors**

Colette Kubesia,  
Membership Outreach  
2010-2012  
Tonja Pastorelle,  
Membership Admin.  
2010-2012  
Jan Dorner, Observer  
Reports 2009-2011  
Laura Kratz, Publicity  
2011-2013  
Sue Whitworth, Voter  
Service 2010-2012  
Maria Hirsh, Voter  
Registration 2011-2013  
Myrrha Guzman,  
Webmaster 2011-2013

Danee Polomsky, Shop  
Talk Editor 2010-2012

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS OF ELMHURST,  
ILLINOIS  
P.O. Box 12, Elmhurst, IL 60126  
www.lwvelmhurst.org



(con't)

suit, this is an important issue for all members, one that just doesn't seem to go away.

In **February**, the LWVE will host a candidate forum that will feature candidates in some of the more significant primary races in our community, including State Senate, State Representative and County Board. This is a core function of our League and a unique opportunity to ask questions and hear more than just campaign slogans.

The **March** program will focus on local financing issues. We will have representatives from the City of Elmhurst to talk about the budgeting process and how local residents can become more engaged. Local financing is often overlooked in budget debates, but the City of Elmhurst budget can have a significant impact on your everyday life. Come hear our local officials and ask questions.

In **April**, we'll turn our attention to another important local issue – Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts. This has been a method of economic development that impacts Schools, Parks and City for all residents. The City may already have proposed a new TIF by April, but this will still be a time to learn the facts, debate, and offer your views.

We will end our program year in **May** with the Annual meeting, a time for business and socializing with each other.

I am honored to serve as President of this organization for the next two years. I have two goals that I hope to accomplish in that time.

First, I would like to **increase the membership of the LWVE by at least 50%**. Three years ago we had twice the membership we do today, so I believe with your help this is an achievable goal. I ask each one of you to look around you and ask your friends, neighbors, or family members who you think are interested in civic engagement to consider joining the League. Second, I would like to see **more young women become involved in the League**. I would like to see more mothers of young children, more young professional women, and more college age women attend our programs and candidate forums. We are working on issues that are important to younger women too, so we would like them to join us and make their voices heard. To that end, ask your daughters, your nieces, the women you see in PTA meetings to come to a League event. I will also be visiting all of the PTAs (or at least as many as I can) in District #205 schools this year to talk about the League.

Finally, I want to thank former President Laura Kratz and past and present members of the Board for their assistance as we make the transition to new leadership at the League. We have an incredibly dedicated group of women who give their time and talents to this organization. I am grateful for their help and look forward to working with them and you in this coming year.

All the best,  
Susan Rose, President  
League of Women Voters of Elmhurst.

---

## **League of Women Voters of Illinois Recognizes Elmhurst Advocacy Work With Top State Award**



The Elmhurst League received the LWVIL's Community Impact Award at the state convention in June for our 2009 Elmhurst School District 205 Issues Investigation. This prestigious award is only given to one project during a biennium in recognition of a League action that has a significant impact in its community.

The Elmhurst project grew out of members' concerns that civil discourse was deteriorating as the community and school officials became increasingly frustrated communicating with each other. The Elmhurst League recognized that we had to do more than read our Observer Reports, speak out at Board meetings, and write letters to the editor. A committee was formed to research specific issues including budgeting procedures, a property purchase, governmental transparency, and facilities improvements.

A public meeting was held in September to educate the community on the Freedom of Information Act and the Citizen's Right to Know. At a second public meeting in October, League members presented the research findings and conducted a community-school discussion in a civil, respectful manner.

This is the second time the Elmhurst League has received the Community Impact Award in recent years. In 2007 we were recognized for our work on two School District 205 Referenda. The LWVIL conventions are held every other year, in odd-numbered years.

---

### **Voter Registration**

The league is looking to increase visibility of voter registration, education and civics instruction through a partnership with York High School and to increase visibility of Voter Registration services provided by the LWV within the community.

### *Did you know?*

Jan Dorner is President of the Illinois League of Women Voters and Laura Kratz is Issues Vice President, also with the State League.



## Program Information:

Thank you to everyone that attended *New Beginnings in Elmhurst: Meet the new Executives* on September 1.

We have an exciting year of monthly meetings for the 2011-2012 year!

♦ **September 1**, *New Beginnings in Elmhurst: Meet the New Executives*. Invited guests included:

City Manager: James Grabowski  
Library Director: Mary Beth Campe  
Park District Director: James Rogers  
School District 205 Superintendent: David Pruneau

Thank you to Cookies Fresco for donating the wonderful baked goods!

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

Dr. Charles Johns, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for District 205, will present what are new on Common Core Standards and Assessments. Dr. Johns will address: What the common core standards are. Where Elmhurst is in the process? Have they been adopted by the board? How will they affect our students? How will it change the current curriculum? What are the advantages and disadvantages? Will it change the report cards? What the current assessments are and possible changes to them?

Mr. Christopher Whelton, Assistant Superintendent for Finance for District 205, will discuss Equity and Funding. We will examine: How our schools are funded.

What portion of the funds are state, federal, local taxes and grants. If common core standards are not adopted, will that change funding?

♦ **December 4** - Holiday Party. An afternoon gathering at Sally Hoffman's home.

♦ **January 19** - Redistricting: Where we are in the LWVIL's Court Case and What does the Current Map Look Like?

♦ **February 5 (tentative)** - Candidate Forum

♦ **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

---

## Cool Cities Coalition

A very special thank you to Jan Vanek! Jan has been the chairperson for Cool Cities since the beginning in 2007 and we appreciate all of her hard work for Cool Cities.

The Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition is a volunteer organization of local institutions, organizations, business leaders and citizens working to empower city, residents and local leaders to join and encourage their cities, businesses and residents to implement smart energy solutions to save money and build a cleaner, safer future.

The September 28 meeting at the Elmhurst Public Library from 7 - 9 PM was the first meeting of the 2011-2012 year. Attendees set goals and identified interests for the coming year.

---

## Lecture

Elmhurst College is hosting "Citizen Empowerment 101," a lecture by Naomi Wolf, at Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 20.

## Great Decisions

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

October 11: "Sanctions and Non-proliferations"

November 8: "The Caucasus"

December 13: "Making sense of Multilateralism"

We will be discussing plans and topics for 2012.

New members are welcome and international topics are always interesting and timely.

*-Barbara Swords*

In this issue:

- ◆ Thank you to Laura Kratz for your service as LWV Elmhurst President and welcome to new President, Susan Rose
- ◆ LWV Elmhurst recognized for advocacy work with Community Impact Award at state convention
- ◆ Upcoming programs

---

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF ELMHURST, ILLINOIS  
P.O. Box 12  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

---