



The League of Women Voters of Elmhurst

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

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September 2008
Laura Kratz, Editor
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Shop Talk

Important Notice: Meeting Schedule

Due to scheduling conflicts at the Elmhurst Public Library, **most** of our monthly meetings are moving to **TUESDAYS** for the 2008-2009 year. See page 5 for details.

The Infrastructure Crisis: What is the Status in DuPage County?

**Charles (Chuck) Tokarski, PE
DuPage County Division of Transportation**

**TUESDAY September 23, 2008
7:00 pm, Elmhurst Public Library**

You have all heard it – we have a national infrastructure crisis. The America Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2005 Infrastructure Report Card gave the U.S. an overall grade of *D*. For Illinois, roads and bridges were cited as the top two infrastructure concerns with 45% of our major urban roads congested and 39% in poor or mediocre condition. The report further noted that driving on roads in need of repair costs Illinois drivers \$2.2 billion per year in extra vehicle repairs and operating costs – \$271 per motorist – and congestion in the Chicago metropolitan area costs commuters \$985 per person in excess fuel and lost time.

We are all well aware of the congestion and condition of our roadways but what is being done in DuPage County? Does the budget have

enough money for preventative maintenance? What are the priorities and who sets them? What other infrastructure needs must be addressed?

County Engineer Mr. Charles (Chuck) Tokarski, PE, will speak to this issue at our September meeting. The Division of Transportation is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the County highway system serving the 900,000 residents of DuPage County by maintaining approximately 220 miles of arterial highways. Other department operations include highway design and construction, road and path reconstruction and maintenance, bridge repair, traffic signs/signal installation and maintenance. He is looking forward to a lively discussion with thought-provoking audience questions.

LWV Rendezvous
Laura Kratz

Tuesday, September 9th at 7:00 pm
Founder's Lounge, Frick Center, Elmhurst College

Our first Rendezvous will be to hear John Kass, columnist for the Chicago Tribune, and his thoughts on *Campaign 2008: Illinois Politics*. Mr. Kass has been on the Trib staff for 25 years and has won numerous awards for his reporting

on a wide variety of issues. Following the lecture, we will remain in the lounge for conversation and socializing. Members and friends are welcome to join us for this free, casual event.

Great Decisions
Barbara Swords

Thursday, September 11th at 9:15 am

Please note that we have moved our meeting to the **second** Thursday of the month for September only. Our topic remains *Latin America: the next*

US President's agenda and we welcome everyone interested in issues discussion.

President's Corner

With the upcoming election in November, your League Board has many valuable projects that offer great opportunities for your participation in our efforts towards making democracy work! These include Candidate Forums: DuPage County (contact: **Gail Anderson**), 6th Congressional District (contacts: **Elaine Libovicz and Donna Blue**), Illinois Student Vote and High School Simulated Federal Elections (contact: **Jan Dorner**), Voter Registration Drives and Voter Registrar Certification (contact: **Myrrha Guzman**). Step up, bring your passion, and join your fellow League members in making these programs a success and helping the citizens of Elmhurst to be better-informed voters. You will be glad you did.

Your League will be joining with LWVIL and other local Leagues in educating the electorate to vote NO on the November ballot question calling for a Constitutional Convention. This position was the result of the consensus reached by Illinois Leagues. Talking points are included in this *Shop Talk*.

Many thanks to those League members who helped make the Green Fest a success: **Jan**

Vanek (chair), **Sue Williams**, **Dannee Polomsky**, **Carol Rounds**, **Lee Schacht**, **Dora Schenk**, **Laura Kratz**, **Myrrha Guzman**, **Jan Dorner**, **Diane Millikan**, **Rosemary Ashworth**, **Elaine Libovicz**, **Gail Anderson**, and **Donna Blue** served on the steering committee and/or helped out on the day of the fest. We had Voter Registration and Membership Recruitment booths that demonstrated and communicated League values and increased our visibility to the community.

In our new League Directory, again compiled and published by **Jan Dorner**, you will see that the Board has planned a great slate of programs for the coming year. I look forward to seeing you all at these monthly meetings. Bring friends along. These programs address timely issues and are a good way to attract new League members.

Concerning new members, it has been found that the best way to get new League members is to ask people to join. Send them to our website, www.lwvelmhurst.org where they can easily join and pay dues online.

Donna Blue

LWV Elmhurst Election Day Preparation

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

The Elmhurst League is getting ready for a big voter turnout for the 2008 general elections.

Voter Registration

Myrrha Guzman

voterregistration@lwvelmhurst.org

September and October Dates

Elmhurst and Oak Brook Public Libraries

REGISTRARS: Mark your calendars, and get your Voter Registrar badges and black-inked pens ready! Our 2008 Fall Registration Drive will take place throughout September and October. We will be at

Oak Brook Public Library

September 6, September 20, and October 4
from 1 pm to 4 pm

October 7, from 5 pm to 8:30 pm.

Elmhurst Public Library

September 14, September 27, and October 5
from 1 pm to 4 pm

October 7, from 5 pm – 9 pm.

As you can see, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please contact Myrrha Guzman with your availability. In the weeks to come, expect to receive an e-mail and/or a phone call to remind you to sign up for at least one of the above dates. We anticipate a big turnout this presidential election year!

Those who recently have been appointed to become registrars and who have not yet been through the training class, please call the DuPage Election Commission to schedule your training session ASAP so that you may help out with our Fall Registration Drive. It takes only about 20 minutes, and you receive your certification upon completion. We can make transportation arrangements to Wheaton as necessary.

DuPage County Candidate Forum

Gail Anderson

publicity@lwvelmhurst.org

Wednesday, October 15th at 7:00 pm

Council Chambers, Downers Grove City Hall
801 Burlington Avenue, Downers Grove

The Elmhurst League is working with the LWV of Downers Grove/Woodridge/Lisle and the Downers Grove Area Chamber of Commerce on a candidate forum scheduled for October 15. We will invite candidates for County Board Districts 2 and 3 and Forest Preserve District 3.

At this time, we are looking for candidate questions for the county board seats. Please send your suggestions to Gail by early September. The Forest Preserve candidates will only give statements.

Pending 6th Congressional District Candidate Forum

Donna Blue and Elaine Libovicz

Sunday, October 5th or 12th at 5:00 pm

York High School, Elmhurst

Although Democratic candidate Jill Morgenthaler has accepted our invitation to participate and we are still waiting to hear from incumbent Peter Roskam, we are proceeding with arrangements. Once again we are working with the Leagues of Glen Ellyn and Wheaton as well as the League of Arlington Heights/Buffalo

Grove/Mt. Prospect and the Union League Club of Chicago. Representatives of each group have filled key positions but we still need someone to coordinate a written Voters Guide for use on our websites. If interested contact Donna by email: president@lwvelmhurst.org

Mock Elections With Actual Voting Equipment comes to DuPage!

In order to give High School students as close to an actual voting experience as possible, the State League has procured a grant from the United States Election Assistance Commission. Jan Dorner is the coordinator for DuPage and 12 High Schools were selected to participate. Two League members are needed at each school to help run this mock election. The LWV coordinator and the school contact will choose dates for the mock election, but Oct. 7, 8 and 9th

are the preferred dates. Can you and one of your friend Leaguers take charge at York or Fenton or perhaps another DuPage High School? The teacher and/or administrator at the school will be the one to decide how much they will be doing. There is free curriculum at the www.illinoisstudentvote.org website for the schools to use. Contact Jan Dorner if you can help students learn this life lesson! Training provided.

Illinois Student Vote

Jan is also coordinating the Illinois Student Vote for Elmhurst. The mock election with actual voting equipment will take place at York only, while every school in Elmhurst has the ability to participate in their own mock election using the illinoisstudentvote.org curriculum. The mock

student vote needs to be held on or before October 30th to be counted in the Illinois Student Vote web site. One school has contacted us so far, but we should be hearing from others once school starts. If you are able to help in a school, should they ask for our help, contact Jan.

Illinois Ballot Question Member Talking Points

November 4, 2008 Election

After a studying the benefits and risks of a Constitutional Convention and near unanimous membership consensus, the Illinois League adopted a position in May 2008 **opposing** such a Convention at this time.

DON'T BE CONNED INTO CON CON!!

UNPREDICTABLE

No restriction can be placed on the number and type of issues that can be raised at a convention. Given the current political dysfunction in Illinois, special interests and party politics could well gain control of the delegate election process as well as the convention's deliberations with the potential for the results being unrepresentative of voter's concerns. Important gains achieved in the 1970 Illinois Constitution could be lost.

INAPPROPRIATE

A constitution should not be filled with cumbersome detail. The amendment process, not a constitutional convention, is the

appropriate way to handle single issues. Since the 1970 Constitution was adopted, 10 out of 17 proposed amendments have been adopted by the voters.

Legislative action is the appropriate way to resolve many issues of concern to voters.

EXPENSIVE

The cost of a constitutional convention is estimated at over \$78 million. It makes no sense to spend even \$1 million to revise a fundamentally sound document when education, infrastructure and basic human services are seriously under funded.

League of Women Voters of Illinois urges a NO vote on Con Con.

Membership

Sue Williams

membership@lwvelmhurst.org

Please join us in welcoming our newest League Members: **Blanche Hill, Mrs. W.D.Larson, Noelle Williams, Lee Schacht, and Bonnie Shadid.**

In an effort to diversity our membership, pizza party for Elmhurst College students is planned for this fall. A new member event is also in the works.

Directory/Yearbook

Jan Dorner

observerreports@lwvelmhurst.org

The new *Directory/Yearbook* is now being compiled and we hope to have it available for our first general meeting on September 23rd. If

you have changes you would like to see to the directory, please contact Jan as soon as possible.

Voter Registration

Myrrha Guzman

Green Fest

voterregistration@lwvelmhurst.org

We were able to register 10 voters at the Elmhurst Green Fest. There were quite a few other individuals who came to our booth just to thank us for being there to provide this important

community service. Thanks to **Gail Anderson, Jan Dorner, Laura Kratz, and Elaine Libovicz** for coming out to help.

Preliminary 2008-2009 LWV Elmhurst Monthly Program Schedule

Thursday, October 23, 2008

The Impact of Global Warming on the Great Lakes

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Local Government and Making Intergovernmental Cooperation Work

Tuesday, March 24

Sisters on the Planet - DVD from Oxfam. An important reminder during Women's History Month that not all women live a life of ease and how we can make a difference.

Tuesday, April 28, 2008

Quality Health Care for All: Just a Dream?

Also planned for the coming year:

February - Candidate Forums for Consolidated Municipal Elections

May – Annual Meeting



League of Women Voters of Elmhurst

P.O. Box 12

Elmhurst, IL 60126

Visit us online at *lwvelmhurst.org*

September League Activities

Tuesday, September 9th

Rendezvous: *Chicago Tribune* columnist John Kass, Elmhurst College, 7:00 pm

Thursday, September 11th

Great Decisions, 9:15 am at the home of Barbara Swords

Tuesday, September 23rd

DuPage County Infrastructure, Elmhurst Library, 7:00 pm

Fall Voter Registration Drive: See inside for dates and locations.