



Shop Talk

Volume 61, Number 2
September 2009
Jeanne Davik, Editor
shoptalk@lwvelmhurst.org

ACTION ALERT:

The League supports strong Health Care Reform legislation, including a public health option.

Have you communicated your support of Health Care Reform to your Congressman and Senators? The time to do so is NOW!

[6th Congressional District, Rep. Peter Roskam \(R\)](#)

* Bloomingdale Office:
630-893-9670

[Senator Richard Durbin \(D\)](#)

* Chicago Office:
312-353-4952

[Senator Roland Burris \(D\)](#)

* Chicago Office:
312-886-3506

More info at www.lwvil.org

First League meeting of the new season...

The Public's Right to Know

Panel Discussion

Thursday, September 24 - 7:00 p.m.
Elmhurst Public Library

What government information is the public entitled to know and how does an individual citizen go about obtaining it?

With citizens shouting at town hall meetings across the country and discord at our own local government meetings, what are the citizens' responsibilities when addressing their elected officials and government employees?

Our panel will include those who work regularly with public information – a municipal lawyer, a journalist, and a librarian.

This first program of the year will set the stage for our follow-up program in October when we will address specific concerns regarding our local school district.

League Rendezvous are Back Join us on Tuesday, October 6

There are many interesting events in our community and we like to capitalize on them from time to time by meeting either before or afterward for refreshments and discussion.

The first such event will be on Tuesday, October 6th when former Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber will present **The Unfinished Business of the Baby Boom Generation: Health Care for the 21st Century** at Elmhurst College. Those of us who heard him speak at the LWVUS convention in Portland, Oregon, last year highly recommend him as a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker.

From the Elmhurst College website:
Former Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber explores the politics of health care reform and the question of whether this renewed political interest will actually result in substantial change. In the process, he will touch on the future of the Medicare program, the implications of the

aging baby boom generation, and the key elements that are needed to move from political rhetoric to meaningful reform.

The program begins at **7:30 in the Founders Lounge of the Frick Center (student union building)**. Get there early, as parking and seating are both very limited. To carpool, please contact either Donna Blue or Dorothy McGuire.

Afterward we will Rendezvous at the home of Laura Kratz for refreshments and discussion.

Need a ride or want to carpool to a League event? Call or email either Donna Blue or Dorothy McGuire.



President's Corner

president@lwvelmhurst.org

This certainly has been an interesting time for those of us who enjoy public policy debate. On the national level perhaps "debate" is not the right word with hysteria being so much the focus in the press. On the local level, our school district faces incessant, and sometimes unseemly, questions from the public about some of its policies and recent decisions.



Laura Kratz, president,
Elmhurst LWV

This is a time when we can be especially proud to be League members. With strong principles and well-researched information on the issues to back us up, we are in a unique position to speak out in ways that elevate, not denigrate, public discourse. One League Principle is particularly relevant today:

That democratic government depends upon the *informed* and active participation of its citizens.

Opportunities abound – in the health care debate the League provides accurate information, notices of public meetings, action alerts, and opportunities such as our October Rendezvous. (See page 1.)

On the local level, we will begin our monthly programs by discussing *The Public's Right to Know*. More than just the basics of how citizens can become informed about government, we will discuss tools and techniques to become proactive in gathering information to which we are entitled. We will follow up in October with a report from our District 205 Issues Exploratory Committee reporting on the recent controversies facing our school system.

And, of course, we have our ongoing projects: Observer Corps, voter registration, candidate forums, membership recruitment, and Great Decisions. It's never too late to get involved with a League activity and we welcome any level of participation.

We need your voice.

Laura

2010 U.S. Census: Working Toward a "Complete Count"

Donna Blue

A DuPage County Complete Count Collaborative, known as DuPage Counts, has formed with representatives from the LWVIL; LWVs of Elmhurst, Naperville, Glen Ellyn, and Wheaton, Downers Grove/Woodridge/ Lisle; DuPage County; Citizens Advocacy Center; and the College of DuPage.

Jan Vanek and **Donna Blue** are representing the Elmhurst League. Plans are underway for a kick-off meeting at College of DuPage on **October 7** to inform DuPage County leaders of the importance and impact of the 2010 Census and to gain their support toward achieving a complete and accurate census.

DuPage County leaders in government, business, education, community service organizations, faith-based organizations, human services agencies, and media will be invited to attend. The program will include presentations, a Q&A session, handouts, and information on resources.

Our support of the 2010 Census is important. Census data is used to determine the distribution of more than \$300 billion annually (more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period) in federal funds to states and communities.

Local decision-makers use census data as a guide in important community planning efforts, such as where to build new roads, hospitals, and schools.

The census also affects your voice in government by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and the redistricting of state legislatures, county and city councils, and voting districts.

Green Tip

Missed the Recycling at Green Fest? The DuPage County website has a great list of free recycling drop-off locations for computers, monitors, TVs, microwaves, cell phones, stereo equipment, VCRs, DVDs, unwanted medicines, etc. Go to: <http://www.dupageco.org/recycling/> for a complete list of recycling sites and resources for DuPage County.

Great Decisions: September 3

Barbara Swords, Chair

Great Decisions will meet Thursday, September 3, at 9:15 a.m. at the home of Barbara Swords. *[Parking is permitted on Fairfield, Utley, and in the driveway.]*

Evelyn Zerfoss will lead the first discussion of our program year on **the relationship of the United States and Egypt**.

How important is this relationship...

- in economic terms;
- in international political terms in the Middle East (especially, in respect to Iraq, Iran, and Israel);
- in terms of the promotion of democracy and human rights;
- as well in terms of many other issues.

We anticipate a lively and timely discussion. New members are always welcome. Please call Barbara Swords for materials, as needed.



“Green Fest” Report

Donna Blue

On August 1 the Elmhurst Green Fest, sponsored by the Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition, of which our League is a member, was successfully held in Wilder Park. In spite of the rain that fell during part of the event, it is estimated that about 1500 people visited Green Fest to learn how to reduce their carbon footprint and live a more sustainable life.

Information and demonstrations were provided by 59 exhibitors, plus presentations at the Library and Elmhurst College. Attendees also dropped off a huge number of items at the Recycling Boutique and participated in the drawing for various exhibitor-donated door prizes. The League had a booth that distributed flyers with the League’s position on the environment, as well as membership information.

Many thanks to our League members for contributing their efforts to the planning and execution of this event and the creation and staffing of our booth, including **Jan Vanek, Sue Williams, Donna Blue, Sue Whitworth, Elaine Libovicz, Jan Dorner, Cheri Niewiara, Connie Zillig, Myrrha Guzman,** and **Gail Anderson**.

Membership Notes

Sue Williams, Membership Chair

- Welcome to our new members:
Kelly Tzoumis
Patricia Adams
O'Halloran, Lisa
- Thank you to renewing members who have paid their 2009-2010 dues! If you have not paid, please put that on your list of things to do today. To be included in our Directory, ***your dues need to be paid before September 1, 2009.*** Thank you.

Student Unit at Elmhurst College?

The Elmhurst LWV is currently meeting with Elmhurst College personnel to plan an event for the college students. Having young women interested in LWV will help ensure the League’s continued success.

Are you interested in helping to sponsor a student? Successful college units offer the students a \$5 membership fee with the remaining \$25 covered through donations.

We are looking for members interested in sponsoring a student with a financial donation. Donations in any amount are welcome. If you are interested in helping to sponsor a student, please contact

- Sue Whitworth or
- Sue Williams at membership@lwvelmhurst.org

Directories

Jan Dorner, Directory Editor

The directory is currently being updated. Please ***pay your dues before September 1st*** to be included in it. Directories will be available for distribution at our first general meeting of the new year on September 24th. This year we are happy to offer two new options for our members:

- ◇ **An electronic version** for those who do not want a printed copy, and
- ◇ **A large-print version** for those who need it.

If you would like either of these new versions, please contact Jan Dorner by September 7th. Send an email to observerreports@lwvelmhurst.org.

Upcoming League Events:

September 3, 9:15 am: **Great Decisions** Discussion Group — Egypt
Home of Barbara Swords

September 17, 7 pm: LWVIL fundraiser: ***Wait Wait, Don't Tell Me***
Chase Auditorium, 10 S. Dearborn, Chicago.

September 24, 7 pm: LWV Elmhurst Monthly Meeting — **The Public's Right to Know**
Elmhurst Public Library

October 6, 7:30 pm: LWV Elmhurst Rendezvous —
Talk: "***The Unfinished Business of the Baby Boom Generation: Health Care for the 21st Century***"
— Elmhurst College, Frick Center.
Refreshments and discussion: Home of Laura Kratz.



LWV Elmhurst
P.O. Box 12
Elmhurst, IL 60126
Visit us online at
www.lwvelmhurst.org