



Highland Park League of Women Voters Bulletin

LWVHP BULLETIN Vol. 90, #1

March/April 2009

Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport

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Consensus Meeting on NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

Join us and members of the Deerfield, Glencoe and Glenview Leagues for a presentation, discussion, and your participation in the LWVUS consensus on the question of supporting NPV.

NPV is a proposal for a state-by-state compact which, if enacted by the requisite number of states, compels the members of the Electoral College to give their votes to the winners of the national popular vote for President and Vice President of the United States.

(Presently the LWVUS has a position in favor of the abolition of the Electoral College and adoption of the "direct-popular-vote," a position which requires an amendment to the US Constitution. Proponents of the NPV Compact say it would lead towards the same one-man-one vote intent and can more readily be achieved.)

**Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 PM in the training room of the
Highland Park Police Station, 1677 Old Deerfield Rd.**

To see the consensus questions and for your background information and pro and con arguments, go to the LWVUS website

www.LWV.org and click on FOR MEMBERS

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

MARCH 2009

Here we are—eighty-one years after our League was founded ---- still making a difference in our world. Our first Candidates Forum was held in 1930. This year we collaborated with other Leagues on the Candidates Forums for the Tenth District and for the 58th and scheduled local Forums for Highland Park on March 10 and for Highwood on March 12. All of these events were great opportunities for short-term League participation. Call us if you would like to help with future, lively events.

The League's Voters Guide to the spring local election was mailed to every household in Highland Park and Highwood -- under the stewardship of Rose Feder, along with Judy Johnston, Faye Grossman, Ginny Schulte, Margie Weiss, Lila Trotsky and Elaine Adler. It contained the responses to questions on issues facing our cities as answered by the candidates in contested local elections. A lot of preparation went into the Guides, which we have put together for years, and which perfectly illustrate an important League mandate: to "encourage the informed and active participation of citizens." It is certainly gratifying to receive accolades from friends and neighbors, because the League volunteers who enjoy compiling the Guide and who organize Candidates Forums spend a great deal of time doing so, in addition to attending to their other personal activities.

The sixteenth annual Women's History Luncheon, held on March 8, at the Highland Park Country Club, was an afternoon of fun and food, as we enjoyed keynote speaker Nicole Mitchell who discussed Women in Jazz. A creative flutist, composer, bandleader, and college instructor, Nicole regaled us with her background and achievements. This event was another example of our collaboration with other local Leagues. We're delighted that, for the second year, our League hosted the event.

SAVE THE DATES: WEDNESDAY, April 15, for a discussion and possible consensus on the Electoral Colleges; SATURDAY, MAY 2, for our exhilarating Annual Meeting. In the morning the League will discuss plans for the coming year. In the afternoon Highland Parker David S. Ruder, former Chairman of the Security and Exchange Commission, will discuss the timely topic of the US economy.

Your support is so important to the League. You will be hearing from us during our annual Phonathon. (See the Bulletin Calendar.) As a Leaguer you know that you can make a difference! We deeply appreciate your past generosity and hope for its continuance. It is great to have a viable, grassroots League that affords us a sense of pride, connection, reflection and individual output! With your necessary support, this League can continue to augment its myriad accomplishments.

All of you are so important to the continued success of our League. We appreciate those of you who are very active, those who jump in with relish and help when needed, those who come to an occasional activity, those who attend our important events and those who are our newest members. We remind you also that League camaraderie is wonderful, so come to our events, participate in an activity, or meet us for coffee, if you would like further explanation of the League process.

Can spring be far behind?

ELAINE AND LILA

ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

Put this on your calendar for Saturday, May 2, 2009
Birchwood Tennis Club

9:00 AM - Coffee and Greetings from our Co-Presidents
9:15 AM - Annual Meeting

This is the time we discuss and set the budget and plans for the coming League year.
Every member has a voice and a vote. We need yours.

12:00 Noon - Luncheon and election of officers followed by our guest speaker,
David S. Ruder, former chairman of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.
What Went Wrong? Prospect for the Future

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2009-2010 Proposed Slate for Board of Directors

Officers

Presidents:

- Rose Feder (2010)
- Ginny Schulte (2011)
- Margie Weiss (2011)

Vice Presidents:

- Nancie Blatt (2011)
- Faye Grossman (2011)

Treasurer:

- Ginger Seff (2010)

Secretary:

Directors:

- Judy Johnston (2011)
- Joyce Juron (2010)
- Beverly Rosenstein (2010)
- Sue Weiseneck (2010)
- Carolan Klapper (2011)
- Peggy Malecki (2011)

Nominating Committee for 2009-2010

- Gail Brown
- Charla Reinganum

Respectfully Submitted,

2009-2010 Nominating Committee

- Linda Kellough, Co-Chair
- Lisa Schwartz, Co-Chair
- Rose Feder
- Judy Johnston
- Betsy Lassar

BOARD RECOMMENDED LOCAL PROGRAM 2009-10

Retain all current positions as edited:

Budgeting Procedures by the City should be expanded to develop criteria for evaluating and prioritizing needs – i.e. upgrading of City facilities (library), use of outmoded buildings (Karger Center), additions to City owned properties (Highland Park Theatre) – with emphasis on financing these kinds of projects. This is envisioned as a new study requiring consensus by the members.

Ravinia Festival – expand text of position to reflect new City policy re: the Municipal Admissions Fee. Since the League is opposed to the imposition of an admission/amusement tax on any not-for-profit cultural institution by the City of Highland Park, members should decide whether to re-evaluate this position.

Add an inventory of school district owned property to school positions.

Telecommunications/Cable TV should be updated to reflect the fact that there is no longer a Telecommunications commission. The text should be evaluated as to its timeliness and relevance.

BOARD RECOMMENDED ACTION PRIORITIES

1. Ft. Sheridan/Schools: Continue to monitor ongoing school issues with particular regard to impact aid status and use by the school districts.
2. Continue to support and monitor implementation of the Highland Park Green Initiatives Alliance. (HPGIA).

THERE WERE NO RECOMMENDED BY-LAWS CHANGES

LWVHP BUDGET - 2009-10

LWVHP BUDGET	09 - 10	08 - 09		07-08	06 -07
	Proposed	Approved	Projected Year End	Actual	Actual
INCOME ACCOUNTS					
300 Dues	6,730	6,960	7,100	7,130	6,820
310 Business Campaign	1,000	1,750	465	1,560	1,830
311 General Fund Contrbs		0	0	0	1,068
312 Ed Fund		300	2,000	882 *	745
330 Ways and Means	1,000	2,180	400	1,109	1,095
340 Interest	120	440	300	502	575
350 Annual Meeting	1,200	1,205	1,205	2,687	820
390 From (To) Reserves	660	5,795	5,000		
TOTAL INCOME	\$10,710	\$18,630	\$16,470	\$13,870	\$12,953
EXPENSE ACCOUNTS					
<i>General Administration</i>					
410 Board Tools and Expenses	460	170	300	348	0
430 Finance Drive	150	140	0	158	0
431 Membership	350	315	500	369	32
432 Member Book	0	310	300	0	357
<i>Bulletin Expense</i>					
440 Bulletin Supplies	0	35	0	214	276
442 Bulletin Printing	250	208	450	1,066	1,244
443 Layout Designer	380	375	450		
444 Bulletin Postage	70	259	50	65	235
Bulletin Subtotal	700	877	950	1,345	1,755
<i>Office Expenses</i>					
450 Stationary	100	0	0	0	0
451 Other Bulk Postage	180	0	180	195	160
452 Telephone	0	0	0	0	(8)
453 Insurance	130	125	125	125	125
454 PO Box Rental	100	100	100	94	92
<i>Programs and Activities</i>					
510 Meeting Expenses	200	69	200	135	108
511 Annual Meeting	1,200	1,205	1,205	2,209	1,255
520 Study Committees	250	250	0	254	468
540 Voter Services	100	6,997	8,500	0	1,247
550 Action - General	0	0	(425)	425	0
<i>Conventions and Outside Meetings</i>					
610 National Convention	500	0	0	2,185	0
620 State Convention	0	1,300	1,300	0	910
630 State/Regional Meetings	150	429	150	146	166
<i>Per Member Payments</i>					
710 National PMP	3,010	2,996	2,927	2,710	3,047
720 State PMP	2,890	2,782	2,769	2,472	2,844
730 Lake County (etc) PMP	240	325	213	206	237
740 Other	0	0	25	25	25
<i>Income Tax</i>					
800 Income Tax Expenses	0	242	0	0	113
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$10,710	\$18,630	\$19,319	\$13,400	\$12,933
NET INCOME (INC MINUS EXP)	\$0	(\$0)	(\$2,849)	\$470	\$21

NOTES:

PROJECTED YEAR END ASSETS:

Checking:	\$ 2,000
Money Market:	\$ 1,500
CD:	\$ 5,725
Educational Fund:	\$ 1,000

TOTAL ASSETS: \$ 10,225

LOCAL NEWS

KUDOS

by Lila Trotsky

Many thanks to our Board for their ongoing commitment to our League. Thanks to the following members who "stepped up to the base" this last month:

- **ROSE FEDER** for all her hard work on the Highland Park Voters Guide
- **GINNY SCHULTE AND JUDY JOHNSTON** for the Highwood Voters Guide
- **FAYE GROSSMAN** for all her efforts in organizing our Highland Park Candidates Forum
- **GINNY SCHULTE AND JUDY JOHNSTON** for the Highwood Candidates Forum
- **MARGIE WEISS AND LINDA KELLOUGH** for a successful Local Program Planning meeting.
 - **JUDY JOHNSTON** for representing our League as a leader and presenter at the State League Issues Forum
 - **GAIL BROWN** for her organizing registrars and work at the High Schools
- **NANCI BLATT** for her continuing efforts at relaying timely and important League information.

LEAGUE SPONSORS TWO FORUMS

Over 125 people attended the candidates' forum March 10 at the Highland Park Country Club for the candidates from School Districts 112 and 113, Highland Park City council, and Moraine Township supervisor. Questions and answers were thoughtful and informative. Many issues were discussed, including such diverse topics as "Angels in America" (High School Play), homework, finances, and the future of the Highland Park Theatre.

On March 12, the LWVHP sponsored a Candidates Forum at Oak Terrace School for the Moraine Township Supervisor position and the Highwood candidates for Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer and Aldermen.

The over 100 people who attended came hoping to hear an exchange of issues between the large number of candidates seeking office. To everyone's surprise, the incumbent Mayor, Vincent Donofrio, and his team did not show. This did not stop those candidates (Charlie Pecaro, Mayor, Marcia Burke, Clerk, Trish Lenzini, Treasurer, and Aldermanic candidates, Quintin Sepulveda, Margie Mendoza, Larry Harpster, Kathy Murphy-Pieri, Eric Falberg and Paula Bernstein) present who each gave a five minute presentation, followed by a lively question and answer session and ending with a two minute closing statement from each.

The Moraine Township Supervisor race between Mari Barnes and Ray Geraci was moderated by Rosemary Heilemann from the Deerfield League and our own Margie Weiss moderated the exchange between the Highwood Candidates.

Thanks to the many League members whose efforts insured the successful forums.

WATER, WATER . . .

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM;

WHERE DOES IT GO?

Rhonda Diamond, LWVG

The Glencoe LWV is sponsoring a tour of Glencoe's Municipal Water Plant as part of a two-part program that focuses on one of the North Shore's greatest treasures - our drinking water.

Join us for a panel discussion on the regional politics and policies of water on April 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Glencoe Park District's newly renovated Takiff Center. Come hear about steps being taken to safeguard our water quality; legislation affecting Lake Michigan, and the regional politics of drinking water and waste water.

Panelists include Debra Shore, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, David Naftzger, Exec. Director of the Council of the Great Lakes Governors, Judy Beck, Lake Michigan Manager for the US EPA, and Tom Weathers, Water Plant Superintendent.

On Saturday, April 18, the tour of the water plant will take place at 10:00 a.m. Registration for the tour is required. Call the Glencoe League at 847-604-1207, Glencoe ext. to receive a registration form. Plan on joining us for one or both programs!

Let us know if you are interested in a tour of the Highland Park Water Plant.

MORE LOCAL NEWS

*An especially warm welcome
to our newest members:*

*Paul Martinez, Highwood
Amanda Scholz, Highwood
Lauri Stern, Highland Park*

STATE PROGRAM PLANNING

On March 11, Gail Brown hosted an all-member state program planning meeting.

Members reviewed and discussed all State League positions, including issues affecting government, gun violence, education, natural resources; and social policy. The State League asks us to decide if each position should be retained, restudied, or dropped.

After careful review, our members voted to retain all existing positions. We discussed several possible study items, but in the end decided to recommend no new state studies. After considering input from all the local leagues, program and action items will be determined by leagues at the state convention in June.

MANY THANKS to our sponsors,
without whom this Bulletin would not be possible.

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NATIONAL NEWS

GREAT LAKES DAY

For the 4th year in a row, the Healing Our Waters- Great Lakes Coalition partnered with the Great Lakes Commission for a hugely successful Great Lakes Day in Washington, D.C.

Leaguers Peggy Malecki and Judy Johnston were there with more than 120 citizen activists representing all of the eight Great Lakes states. USEPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and Council on Environmental Quality Director Nancy Sutley addressed the group and reaffirmed President Obama's commitment to the Great Lakes and to all of the "Great Waters" efforts nationally.

The day ended with an evening reception at the Canadian Embassy co-sponsored by the Embassy and the Healing Our Waters Coalition where speakers included the Canadian Ambassador, Congressman Jim Oberstar, Grand Rapids Mayor Heartwell, and NPCA President / HOW Co-Chair Tom Kiernan.

The next day, coalition members were on Capitol Hill, visiting the majority of the Great Lakes Congressional delegation. Good news for the Great Lakes was confirmed in the President's budget, which included \$475 million dollars of restoration funding for the Great Lakes. In addition, \$3.9 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs was included in the budget, beyond what was provided by the Economic recovery package, of which more than \$1 billion could come to the Great Lakes.

GREENHOUSE GASSES

From a letter by LWVUS president Mary Wilson:

Prompt action is required to slow the build-up of greenhouse gases. The United States must adopt an aggressive trajectory for reducing its emissions. We must stop the "Business as Usual" emissions of greenhouse gases and impose aggressive emission reductions starting in 2010.

We support adoption by the U.S. of a firm, verifiable cap that reduces emissions at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050. Even with these aggressive reductions in the U.S., the global decrease in emissions may lag, resulting in dangerous warming. Furthermore, part of the emitted CO2 remains and accumulates in the atmosphere; thus, the atmospheric concentration will continue to increase until the global rate of removal exceeds the rate of release.

We have the capacity, responsibility and economic imperative to lead this effort internationally. The U.S. has met great challenges before—such as World War II and space exploration. Since we are responsible for much of the increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases, we need to accept responsibility for being the leader in solving the global climate challenge. Our efforts will transform our way of life by creating a new clean-energy economy and will allow the U.S. to maintain its technological leadership.

TIPS FOR SEARCHING AND NAVIGATING THE LWV.ORG WEBSITE

1. Choose your keywords carefully. If you use the League's search engine, then more specific words are better than general words. For example, a specific term like "audit" is better than a general term such as "report".
2. Use phrases instead of separate words. Separate words will find webpages that contain at least one instance of each word anywhere in the page and in any order, which could be a long list of pages. A phrase enclosed in double quote marks will find pages that contain that exact phrase. You can also search for phrases combined with single words.
3. Use the Advanced Search option for more refined searches. Just under the Search field on most **LWV.org** pages is a link to the Advanced Search page. On this page, you can limit your search to certain subjects and time periods. (This subject search depends on webpages having been "tagged" with those subjects when they were posted to the **LWV.org** website.)
4. The Search Results page lists results by date or relevance. The default search results list is sorted by a percent relevance score, which is just a measure of how many times your keywords matched the words in the result pages. Sometimes sorting by date gives a better chance of finding a result you are looking for.
5. Watch the date published in the Search Results. This date is when the page was posted or updated on the **LWV.org** website, not when the document was written.
6. Be aware of the "breadcrumbs" near the top of many **LWV.org** webpages. For example, a page on "Election Administration" has "Home -> Take Action -> Election Administration" just below the page header. "Home" and "Take Action" are active links that return you directly to those pages in the website's hierarchy.
7. Be aware of the layout of webpages. Most **LWV.org** webpages have the same layout with a header at the top with the logo, links to major website sections and the Search field. The left column has links to sections of the website that are related to the current webpage. The right column has links to the most popular topics within the topic of the webpage you are looking at.
8. Look for League internal material in the **For Members** section. The For Members section is used for material that is generally intended for League members only. You may be asked enter your personal email address and password (as previously entered into the LWVUS database) to access this material. This is also the website section where you can subscribe to League email discussion lists.
9. Try using Google instead. The Google search engine has many people supporting and honing its abilities, so it does a much better job. If you use "**site:lwv.org**" (with no spaces) as one of your search parameters, then Google will search only the **LWV.org** webpages. Additional tips for using the Google search engine can be found on Google's website: <http://www.google.com/support/websearch/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=136861>).



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LEAGUE CALENDAR

April	7	7:00 pm	Board Meeting - Rose Feder - 1150 Park Ave. West
	14	7:00 pm	Water Politics and Power, panel discussion, Glencoe League - Takiff Center, Glencoe
	15	7:00 pm	National Popular Vote Consensus, (Electoral College), Highland Park Police Department, Deerfield Road
May	2	9:00 am	LWVHP Annual Meeting - Birchwood Club
	13	7:00 pm	Board Meeting - TBA
June	12 - 14		State League Convention - Peoria, Illinois
July	16	7:00 pm	Lake County League Annual Meeting - TBA
			Book Discussion - Date Pending

Call 847-432-4732 or email info@lwwhp.org to carpool to any of these events.
If you would like more information about the LMILO or LWVLC meetings, call Judy Johnston at 847-433-9375.

MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS