

League of Women Voters of Highland Park/Highwood *BULLETIN*



LWVHP/HWD BULLETIN

January 2016

IN THIS ISSUE: *Click on Underlined Topics or "What's Going On" pictures to See Full Articles*

LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING

February 24th from 7:30 to 9:00 pm

The evening will start with our ***Board Meeting*** at 6:30 pm

Followed by ***National Program Planning*** at 7:00 pm

Culminating with ***Local Program Planning*** starting at 7:30 pm

Highland Park Police Station, Community Room

This is the first call to the Annual Meeting when members have the opportunity to have an active role in determining how our League can continue to make a difference in Highland Park/Highwood ...



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LEADERSHIP MEMO FROM: Barbara Kronish, Co-President

The snow is snowing, the wind is blowing ...



What's Going On?

**Annual Holiday
Open House photos:**



**North Shore 112
School Referendum Recap**



Money in Politics Recap



**Candidates Forums and
Voter Registration**



Amending the Constitution Recap

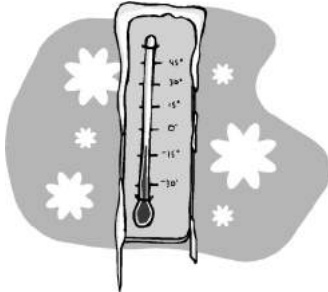


CALENDAR *CLICK TO GET TO FULL CALENDAR / GREEN NOTES*



HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

LEADERSHIP MEMO JANUARY 2016



The snow is snowing, the wind is blowing, but we can weather the storm—because almost all of us remembered to send in our dues!! Thank you to those who did; those who have not yet sent the envelope back, please remember how important League is to our community, state and nation. More than ever, it seems that we need to have a civil, balanced, unbiased voice to study and testify in many different subjects. For that reason, we have studied and held consensus meetings on some of the major topics facing our country and our city. On January 13 we held a consensus meeting at Immaculate Conception Church concerning Money in Politics (article and consensus results are in the Bulletin), and on January 20th we met at the Highland Park Recreation Center to discuss and came to consensus on the School District 112 Referendum.

What would you like our League to concentrate on next year? What topic would you like to find out more about? On February 24th we will meet in the Community Room of the Safety Center to discuss National and Local Program Planning. Our Voter's Service team has been actively preparing for the Primary Candidate's Forum on February 28 at the Highland Park Country Club, and our board is putting together activities for the second annual March Women's History Month. Stay tuned!

None of our programs would be possible without your support and enthusiasm, so thank you thank you—and a happy and healthy new year.

Barbara Kronish



HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

BE PREPARED.....

.....FOR LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING!

The issues that are to be studied and acted upon at each level of the League of Women Voters - national, state and local - are determined by the membership. This meeting is your opportunity to have an active role in determining the topics for local study and action in order to make a difference in Highland Park/Highwood.

We will review and update our current local positions, hear reports from our on-going action and study committees and discuss in-depth ideas for next year's local studies and actions—issues that you and other Leaguers think need addressing at the local level.

After this meeting, the Board will meet to consider all the proposals discussed and will determine the recommended program, which will be announced in the next LWV *Bulletin*. Members are invited to submit additional non-recommended items for inclusion in the *Bulletin*. Our Bylaws stipulate that only those items which were announced to the membership at least one month before the Annual Meeting in May can be discussed and voted upon by the members at the Annual Meeting.

The ABCs of Being Prepared

Avidly read a summary of our existing local positions, which are available in your Handbook. Part of the evening will be devoted to discussing possible changes to our existing positions. We would like to do this as quickly as possible in order to leave time to discuss new ideas, so please come prepared if you would like to suggest modifications to a current position.

Brainstorm! What needs improving? What aspect of local government or services should be delved into? Where can the League have its greatest impact in the community?

Call ahead to develop your idea! To ensure that your idea receives maximum consideration, call **Barb Lippai** at 847-432-8185 for help in developing a proposal before the meeting. Be prepared to give a 1 or 2 minute “preview” of your proposal, to be followed by more in-depth details and explanation.

HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

..... LOCAL PROGRAM PLANNING!

GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING NEW PROGRAMS:

- Is it a problem which can be met through government?
- Is it timely?
- Is there likelihood of tangible accomplishment?
- Can League contribute something on this issue beyond work being done by other organizations?
- Does the political structure and climate make action possible in this field?
- If it is a support position, is there current membership agreement on the position?
- Can members be kept informed without too heavy a workload?
- If the issue extends beyond local boundaries, could there be a conflict with other Leagues?
- Considering a TOTAL League program (National, State and Local), does the League have sufficient personnel, experience, funds and time to carry out the proposal?
- What is the membership appeal of the total program?
- Will it be of interest to potential new members?
- Will it provide opportunities for direct action to address community needs?
- Does it contribute to community education?
- Does it lead to collaboration with other community groups?
- Will it increase League visibility?



*The meeting will be held following our Board Meeting and National Program Planning on
February 24th at the Highland Park Police Station Community Room*

*Board Meeting **6:30 pm** — National Program Planning **7:00 pm** — Local Program Planning **7:30 pm***

See our full positions on our website www.lwvhp.org

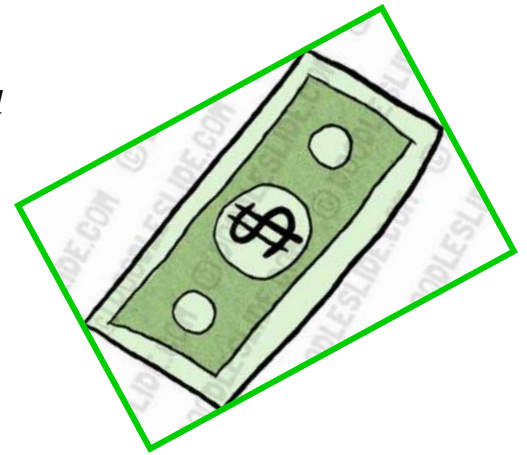
HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

MONEY IN POLITICS CONSENSUS RECAP

Leagues across the county have been studying the effects of money in politics. Our League participated with our own study and consensus, which will be added to the work of Leagues across the county for a revised national position.

The following is our consensus, in brief.

- *Regarding the question— what should be the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation?*
 - ◇ Our consensus focused on political equality for all citizens: protection from the distortions of big money in elections, enabling candidates to compete equitably for office, ensuring the public's ability to have sufficient information to make informed choices, and, knowing who is making contributions.
- *We looked at possible types of political corruptions, much of which centered on donor interest in influence and access.*
- *A set of questions regarding 1st Amendment protections for speakers and activities in political Campaigns... To what extent should protection of free speech and freedom of the press apply in the regulation of campaign finance.*
 - ◇ In general we supported some spending regulations for political actions committees, for-profits, trade associations, unions and political parties.
- *We looked at methods to regulate campaign finance to protect the democratic process:*
 - ◇ *We agreed to abolishing Super PACs and to restricting direct donations and bundling of contributions by lobbyists.*
 - ◇ Regarding public financing for candidates: we supported implementation of one of two systems – either voluntary financing ,or, a mandatory public financing.



It was a long, lively meeting! Thanks to those who participated and the committee: Rose Feder, Barbara Kronish, Carol Kohn and Ellen Gussin.

HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

School District 112 Referendum Consensus

The LWVHP/HWD Committee to study the Criteria for the District 112 School Referendum presented their findings to a very well-attended meeting on Wednesday January 20th. **Barb Lippai** (co-chair of the committee) introduced the writing committee members: **Debbie Brown** (co-chair), **Rick Heineman**, **Marlene Senescu** and **Ruth Buhai**. Another member, **Debby Zirin** was out-of-town.

In her opening remarks, Barb Lippai explained the process of reaching consensus for referendums. Many Leagues develop position statements for referendums in the same manner as other local position statements. The state and national Leagues recommend that local Leagues develop and adopt criteria for funding proposals for schools, libraries, municipalities, and park districts by using a method that streamlines the process. Our school funding referendum position was studied and approved by the membership in 1999 and revised in 2014 at our annual meeting.

The committee presented the four criteria, one at a time, followed by a discussion. The chair determined consensus.

The first criterion, ***“Referendum funds sought are critical for essential education needs”***, is composed of several components. Discussion included whether the District can show linkage between the objectives and the request for additional funding. There was a discussion about safety concerns — sprinklers, ADA access and security. (A little FYI that we found out--Lincoln School has 43 different levels!) There was consensus for this criterion.

The second criterion of the study, ***“Referendum process has been transparent and inclusive”*** was agreed upon without questions.

The third criterion, ***“Referendum funds sought are justified by adequate, reliable financial analysis”*** was thoughtfully and thoroughly presented by **Rick Heineman**, who explained the many graphs in the committee’s handout. As expected, this criterion generated the most questions. The result was not only a League consensus, but a much greater understanding of the problems of our district, compared with other nearby and comparable districts.

There was consensus for the fourth criterion, ***“Referendum proposal is consistent with other LWV positions”***.

The study, which had been developed over a three-year period, is now complete. The Board confirmed that a consensus was reached for all the criteria in the study and that we have a position in favor of the referendum. League can now begin the next stage—**ACTION!**

An Action Committee is in the process of being formed. Please email **Barbara Lippai** or **Debbie Brown** to be a part of this process. We need: writers of letters of support for the referendum; members to canvass at train stations; and a myriad of activities, mostly for League coordination with Moving 112 Forward, the proponents of the referendum.

Various members of League have worked on the committee for the last six years. Some members attended almost every school board meeting, and some followed the progress on-line. The writing committee was particularly busy during the past six months: asking tough questions; interviewing district personnel, and interviewing the proponents and opponents of the referendum. **These members deserve a standing ovation and our thanks for a job well done!**

The presentation will be on-line for you to review.



HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONSENSUS RECAP

Results of LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Consensus

This was a study of the Constitutional amendment process since the League has no such position. It is acknowledged that the timing of the study relates to public pressure to amend the constitution and cites call to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*. In fact, this study was part of a two part study, of which Money in Politics, the issue in *Citizens United*, is the other part.

This study was in three parts. The questions in Part I were meant to develop guidelines for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals. Part II asked about aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention that may be important in conducting such a convention. Part III asked two overall balancing questions between process and positions.

Members of our League (12) met on November 30, to hear a presentation and then discuss the following questions in order to reach consensus.

The **CONSENSUS** on each question appears at the end of the separate parts except where a particular part requires a separate response.

Part I - Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals

1. Which of these **SHOULD** or **SHOULD NOT** be a consideration in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted amendment?
 - a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed.
 - b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective.
 - c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights.
 - d) Whether the policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment.
 - e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

CONSENSUS: All parts, a thru e, were considered to be a SHOULD response.

continued on page 8

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

CONSENSUS RECAP continued from page 7

Part II - Aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention

2. What conditions should or should not be in place for an Article V Constitutional Convention initiated by the states? **AGREE or DISAGREE** with the following circumstances.
- The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret.
 - Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote.
 - State delegates must be elected rather than appointed.

CONSENSUS: There was no consensus on item c.

- Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state.
- The Convention must be limited to a specific topic.
- Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention must be called.
- The validity of state “calls” for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission should be respected by Congress.

CONSENSUS: Parts a thru g, with the exception of c, were considered to be an AGREE response.

3. **SHOULD** the League oppose an Article V Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution because of unresolved questions about the powers and processes of such a convention?

CONSENSUS: Was considered to be a SHOULD response.

Part III – Balancing Questions

4. **SHOULD** the League consider supporting a Constitutional amendment that will advance a League position even if:

- There are significant problems with the actual amendment as proposed?

CONSENSUS: Considered to be a SHOULD NOT CONSIDER response.

- It is being put forward by a procedural process the League would otherwise oppose?

CONSENSUS: Considered to be a SHOULD CONSIDER response with the qualifying comment – How much the process deviates from the League position on amendment process must be considered.

HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

VOTER REGISTRATION AND CANDIDATES FORUMS



HPHS VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE:

The League will register students and staff at Highland Park High School on **January 27, 2016**, before the March 15, 2016 primary. We usually get a big turnout of enthusiastic new voters at the High School. Illinois law allows 17 year olds to vote in the primary as long as they turn 18 by the general election on Nov 8, 2016.

If you are interested in becoming a voter registrar for the next registration drive, please contact Rheta Pickard at 847-432-8664 or rspickard@comcast.net to arrange for training.

CANDIDATES FORUMS:

Election time is coming again! On **February 28th** at 1:30 p.m. The League of Women Voters of Highland Park, Deerfield and Lake Forest Lake Bluff will be holding the primary candidates forums for both Congressional District and States Attorney. **Both races are Democratic candidates. All other positions in our area are not contested.**

Candidates Nancy Rotering and Brad Schneider are running for Congress (both Democrats) and Matt Stanton and Michael Pinello (also Democrats) are seeking office of States Attorney. We are asking for volunteers to help at the forum carrying out the several positions necessary for making the day successful. If you are interested please send an e-mail to Faye Grossman at fayegro@comcast.net

LWV HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HIGHLAND PARK/HIGHWOOD LEAGUE

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE—BEAUTIFUL!!!

December 9th, 2015



Aside from the many accomplishments of the past year and plans for the new year - our League knows how to have a terrific party. Some photos from our Annual Holiday Party at Laurie Reinstein's beautiful home. Guest speakers were Highland Park and Highwood City Managers, Ghida Neukirch and Scott Coren, who spoke about Economic Development in our cities and answered many questions during an active Q&A session.



LEAGUE CALENDAR



JANUARY	20	7:30 PM	School District 112 Referendum Consensus
		9:00 PM	Board Meeting to approve Consensus Highland park Rec Center, Room 101 (Details Page 6)
	23	1:00 PM	Movie Documentary: Terra Blight Free full-length feature on hazardous Waste caused by America's pursuit of latest computer technology HP Library
	27		HPHS Voter registration Drive League voter registration of students And staff at HPHS
FEBRUARY	24	6:30 PM	Board Meeting
		7:00 PM	National Program Planning
		7:30 PM	Local Program Planning Highland Park Police Station, Community Room
	28	1:00 PM	Primary Candidates Forums Highland Park Country Club
MARCH	MULTIPLE EVENTS		Women's History Month Event Topics and Dates to follow

Non-board members are always welcome to attend board meetings.

Editor's Note: Thanks to all who contributed articles/information to this edition. Andy Amend, Rose Feder, Barbara Kronish, Barbara Lippai. And Rheta Pickard.

Reminder if you have not paid this year's dues, please bring your check to the School Referendum Consensus Meeting.



GREEN NOTES:

League Environmental Tip

Vehicle idling wastes fuel and gets us nowhere. 1.8 billion gallons of fuel are wasted each year. This statistic comes from a study by Vanderbilt University and applies to cars idling while parked. Fuel use and CO2 emissions are always greater when idling for more than 10 seconds, and it is so easy to just turn off the engine. Find a different spot to be warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Letting the engine idle is not beneficial to anyone, and turning the motor off is such a positive contribution to the greater good.

