

President's Corner *By Mary Truss*

This year is about to come to an end and a new one is about to start so let's get in gear.

We will start by getting rid of the holiday frustrations by attending the Cocktail Party/Fund raiser January 7, 2010 at 7:00 PM Tall Grass Art Gallery 367 Artist Walk, Park Forest, Illinois. The cocktail party is the League's largest and most profitable fundraiser. This year promises to be "Sacred, Spiritual & Sensual," those words alone should peak your interest so why not come out to see what "The Sacred, the Spiritual & the Sensual" is .The silent auction can be both fun and profitable. You can get some great deals in those baskets. Oh, did I mention the food and spirits are great. Network with other league members and have fun too.

The voter service team has been working hard registering voters at the local high schools and in the communities. We will be working with Homewood/Flossmoor and Palos/Orland Leagues to conduct the candidate forums for the Cook County 5th & 6th Districts. The voter service article in this issue will detail dates times and places. Get ready; they will be asking for your help.

Welcome all new members and watch for up-coming details on new member reception. If you change any of your contact information please contact Pamela Wickliffe at p.wickliffe@gmail.com.

Issues Briefing will be February 6, 2010 in Chicago, Illinois. This is a worthwhile event to attend especially new members. You get a good briefing of what is going on and what is not going on in this state and they have break-out sessions so you can participate.

National Woman's History Month will be the highlight of the month of March 2010. Bobbie Greer, chairperson of the Black/White Gala, has reported that her committee has extended an invitation to Senator Hutchinson to be this year's guest speaker. She is looking for a great turn out on March 27, 2010 at the University Golf and Conference Center in University Park, IL.

The Cook County League will be making a presentation on April 11, 2010. It will be held in the Board Room of Park Forest Village Hall located at 350 Victory Drive in Park Forest, IL. The presentation will begin promptly at 3:00 PM.



Intercom Park Forest Area

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Special points of interest:

- *Issues Briefing*
- *Volunteers Needed for Forums*
- *LWVIL to Host TV Debates*
- *Park Forest Cocktail Party*

Voter Services *By Claudette Hall*

A major objective of Voter Services is to register citizens to vote. Students 18 years of age as well as those who will be age 18 by **February 2, 2010** can register to vote. The deadline to register anyone to vote is **January 5, 2010**. Outreach to new voters was provided by Patricia Cline and Claudette Hall. They conducted voter registration drives at local high schools. Kudos to Jerry Bridges, Jacquelyn Parker and Sandra Warren, new LWVPFA members, who participated in the voter registration drive at Rich East High School. Their assistance was appreciated.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Candidate Forums. On Tuesday, January 5th, candidates for the 5th District of Cook County will speak about the issues of that district. Similarly, on Thursday January 13th, candidates of the 6th District of Cook County will engage in discussion of the issues of that district. Volunteers are needed to insure the smooth operation of each forum. Timekeepers, screeners and people to distribute cards are needed for each session. If you would like to participate in either forum contact **Claudette Hall at (708) 747-7114** details will be provided.

Check out www.lwvpfa.org & www.lwvil.org & www.lwv.org Get Ready for Program Planning *By Barbara Sturges*

On our website (www.lwvpfa.org) you can now find School District 163 Observer notes provided by Suzie Brown. Volunteer to observe a local board (school or Village) and send me your notes (bikebarbara@juno.com) to see your own Observer notes there as well! Contact President Mary Truss to volunteer.

Check out the calendar feature on our website for details of events or to see if new events have been planned. If the Homewood-Flossmoor Area League hosts a "Meet and Greet" for judicial candidates in January as tentatively planned, we'll list the event.

You'll also find many interesting events on the website of the state League. LWVIL has been asked to partner with ABC 7 and the Better Government Association to host debates for both Republican and Democratic candidates for the primary in both the Gubernatorial and Senatorial races. The televised debates are tentatively scheduled to be aired in mid to late January. Check their website for the latest information.

Also, watch www.lwvil.org for more specifics of the annual Issues Briefing which is a day long event scheduled for February 6, 2010. It's a great opportunity to learn about issues of importance to the League; to gain insights prior to our local league's annual program planning; and to gain enthusiasm for the mission and activities of the League of Women Voters!

In February our League will participate in LWVUS Program Planning. To prepare for this important process, go to www.lwv.org and look at "Impact on Issues" (2008-2010) to determine if you'd like to recommend reviewing any current LWVUS position or the study of any issue not currently addressed. This is a great way to acquaint you with positions the League has adopted. Program Planning is also your opportunity to recommend a new local study. LWVPFA will hold our Program Planning meeting Sunday afternoon February 21, 2010. This meeting will be held in the Board room of Park Forest Village Hall located at 350 Victory Drive in Park Forest, IL at 3:00 PM.

Cook County Primary Election Candidate Forums

The Homewood/Flossmoor Area, Palos/Orland Area, and Park Forest Area Leagues will present two evenings of candidate forums for those seeking seats on the Cook County Board. The February 2 primary election will include two Democratic candidates and two Republican candidates for the 5th District of Cook County and three for each party for the 6th District. On Tuesday January 5 at Homewood Public Library, 17917 Dixie Highway, beginning at 7 pm, one hour will be devoted to 6th District candidates from one party; one hour to those from the other party. The candidates for the 5th District seat will be featured in a forum with the same format Wednesday January 13 beginning at 6:45 pm at Flossmoor Public Library, 1000 Sterling.

As of now, plans are that Barbara Amster of LWVPFA will moderate one evening; a representative of the Palos/Orland League, the other. (The moderator cannot live in the candidates' district.)

Matteson, Olympia Fields, and part of Park Forest are in the 5th District; Richton Park and most of Park Forest, the 6th. Check the back of your voter's registration card to find your District.

Invitations are being issued to each candidate. If only one candidate for a particular race accepts, there will not be a "forum" as LWV rules prohibit a debate with an "empty chair." Check our website (www.lwvpfa.org) for updates on these important forums and invite your friends and neighbors!

These events are open to the public, and it is important that you invite your friends, co-workers, faith groups and other organization members to attend. It is important for LWV to give the public an opportunity to meet the people who want to represent them.

This information may also be found on www.lwvil.org under voter service.



League of Women Voters of Illinois

Announcing the Illinois “Fair Map” Amendment—Take Back Illinois with a Citizen Initiative on Redistricting!

The LWVIL Board voted unanimously to support a Citizen Initiative on Redistricting: the Illinois Fair Map Amendment. This proposed constitutional amendment would take redistricting out of the hands of the General Assembly, allow for public participation and input, create transparency, and provide a process that would make the once-every-decade map drawing process just and equitable.

Local Leagues will collect signatures on petitions to get the proposed amendment on the November 2010 ballot, educate our communities on why it is important to support this initiative, and encourage others to support this effort as well. We are aiming for 500,000 signatures. We Can Do It!

LWVIL to Host TV Debates of Statewide Primary Candidates

LWVIL has been asked to partner with ABC 7 and the Better Government Association to host debated for both Republican and Democratic candidates for the primary in both the Gubernatorial and Senatorial races. The televised debates are tentatively scheduled to be aired in mid to late January.

LWVIL Selected as Lead Agency for IL Complete Count

The League of Women Voters of Illinois is pleased to announce that they have been selected by Governor Quinn as the lead agency for Illinois’ Complete Count Committee: “Everybody In..No One Left Out” for Census 2010. The League will collaborate with the Governor’s office to help select Complete Count Committee members from non-profit organizations, business community, faith-based organizations, and the media.

Working with these organizations and local Leagues from around the state, the LWVIL will help ensure that Illinois is fully counted. More info: [Gov. Quinn Launches State’s 2010 Census Push Video of Gov. Quinn’s News Conference.](#)

Email vs. Hard Mail *By Sharon McGuire*

In order to save our trees and reduce to cost to publish the intercom, it has been decided by the LWVPFA board to email the intercom to members who wish and also continue to mail a hard copy to those who wish to receive the intercom via the US postal service. If you wish to receive the intercom via the email, please let me know at samcguire@netscape.net. If I don’t hear from a member, I will assume you wish to continue getting the intercom via the postal service. Don’t forget to visit us on the web at lwvpfa.org.





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS® OF THE PARK
FOREST AREA**

P.O. BOX 782
PARK FOREST, IL 60466

LWV/PFA

The Park Forest Area League of Women Voters welcomes all persons interested in promoting responsible government at any level. Good government does not happen without active citizen participation.

The LWV studies issues, gets to know public officials, observes at public meetings, lobbies on issues, registers voters, and provides many educational services.

Keep Democracy in Action Help Others Be Involved

League of Women Voters

Park Forest

P.O. box 72

Park Forest, IL 60466

lwvpfa.org

**We welcome members from Park Forest,
Bourbonnais, Chicago Heights, Crete, Matteson,
Mokena, Monee, Olympia Fields, Richton Park,
Steger, University Park, etc.**

Calendar of Events

1/05/10

**6th District Candidates Forum at
Homewood Public Library**

1/07/10

**Cocktail Party at Tall Grass
Arts Gallery in Park Forest**

1/13/10

**5th District Candidates Forum at
Flossmoor Public Library**

2/06/10

Issues Briefing—LWVIL

2/21/10

Program Planning PF Village Hall

3/27/10

**Black and White Woman of
the Year Gala in University
Park**

4/11/10

**Cook County League Presentation
at PF Village Hall**