

President's Corner *By Mary Truss*

Half of the year has come and gone. We have accomplished many things. Those of us who are new have learned and grown tremendously. We have made some new changes to our board; Mary Brown will be assisting with membership. As I write this Pamela and Mary are hosting a new member reception in Richton Park, Illinois. They have invited all new members and perspective members to meet the old members. They plan to engage the new members in league actives with the help of the new member mentors.

The voter service committee's performance, led by Claudette Hall, has been awesome. They coordinated their efforts with two other leagues (Homewood/Flossmoor, Palos/ Orland) and conducted two candidate forums; Cook County Board commissioners 5th and 6th districts. See the article on voter service. They have already set their plans for voter registrations and candidates forums for the November elections. This committee is definitely engaged. Several members from the Park Forest Area League pitched in with the other leagues to help with the many duties connected with conducting candidate forums. A big thank you goes out to Barbara Amster, who moderated the candidate forum for the 6th district Cook County. Barbara is a very good moderator and so professional.

We will be conducting program planning on Feb 21, 2010 at the Village of Park Forest, in the village hall conference room at 3:00PM. This is one of the most important functions of the league and it is also an opportunity for everyone to exercise their input in selection of programs that we study or review. This year we will be reviewing the national programs but we can also review some of our local programs and introduce new ones for a study. All members need to be there. If you have any questions please direct them to Barbara Sturges at bikebarbara@juno.com or Mary Truss at Mtruss50@sbcglobal.net.

Almost everyone know that the League of Women Voters have been asked to perform the complete count census work. And work it will be, but we are up to the task. Most of our communities have been readying their residents for the big day that they receive their questionnaire. There are only 10 questions to answer; if you have questions you can visit www.2010census.gov.

February is "Black History Month" which will be observed by many in our league being that the Park Forest Area League is one of the most diverse (gender, race, age and religion) league in Illinois.

March is Women's History Month, and we will have events and displays in most of the communities we represent. The league and the Village of University Park will sponsor the 2nd annual "Black & White Gala; everyone is invited to come and please bring a friend or two. For more information see the Black & White Gala article or contact Bobbie Greer at 708-534-2578.



Intercom Park Forest Area

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Special points of interest:

2/21/10	Program Planning PF Village Hall
3/07/10	Fair Map Presentation. 3:00 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
6/11- 15/10	2010 LWV Convention Atlanta, Georgia

Voter Services *By Claudette Hall*



LWVPFA Voters Services co-chair Claudette Hall, with a help of the committee, was very busy registering voters in the south suburbs prior to the primary election. Pat Cline has assisted with all the drives; Sandra Warren, Jerry Bridges, and Jackie Parker (new League members who have joined the committee) have helped too.

Voter registration drives were held at Marion, Crete-Monee, Bloom Trail, Rich East, and Rich Central High Schools. Over 100 new voters were registered.

The committee also helped plan and run the candidates forums which were held in January in conjunction with the Leagues of the Homewood-Flossmoor Area and the Palos-Orland Area. Forums were held for candidates for both the 5th and 6th districts of the Cook County Board. Both forums were very well attended and quite lively! (One observer counted over 90 attendees at the forum for the 5th district!) Claudette wants to thank all the LWVPFA members who helped with the forums! Good job, ladies!

Most of the current local positions are specific to the Village of Park Forest. This is the perfect time for someone to suggest a study (the first step in developing a position) relevant to the area in general or to one of the other communities we serve. If you suggest a study, be prepared to help with it!

Program Planning February 21st *By Barbara Sturges*

LWVPFA PROGRAM PLANNING TO BE HELD FEB 21 AT 3 PM – CONFERENCE ROOM OF PARK FOREST VILLAGE HALL, 350 VICTORY DRIVE, PARK FOREST

WHAT IS PROGRAM PLANNING?

The Program Planning process is the League tool for identifying issues for study and is the process for making recommendations concerning program issues –This is how League remains a grassroots organization!

PROGRAM is a three part process composed of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. Program is the League term for positions on issues and this is our opportunity to affect the topics studied and the positions reached which lead to action on the position.

What is the purpose of the Park Forest Area meeting? To provide input on issues that members believe need to be studied or action taken. This is our opportunity to discuss our concerns on issues and have a voice in the activities of the LWV. The League is gathering input from local leagues throughout the country. It also is an opportunity to identify LOCAL issues which should be studied.

What will we do at this planning session? We will discuss the LWVUS positions on the national issues and evaluate the need for retaining or restudying any specific position. This process is the initial grassroots step leagues take in preparation for discussion and decision-making at the LWVUS convention in June. Each local League will report its decisions to the LWVUS Board who will decide which issues/positions will be recommended for study or action in 2010-2011.

For information on current LWVUS positions, got to www.lwv.org or consult your “Impact on Issues.” You can order a copy from the website, or contact Barbara Sturges (bikebarbara@juno.com or phone 703 481-3429) as I’ve bought some extras. A synopsis of the LWVUS positions is on pages 13 through 17 of your 2009-2010 Membership Directory.

We will also discuss our local League (Park Forest Area) Positions on issues. You can find a synopsis of local League positions in the 2009-2010 Membership Book on page 7.

Working on a study is a great opportunity to learn about the subject AND to work with fellow League members! It can also be the first step to helping our communities.

Hope to see you Sunday February 21 at 3 pm at Park Forest Village Hall.



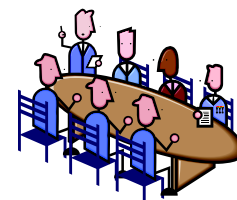
Observer Reports on LWVPFA.ORG *by Barbara Sturges*

Suzie Brown has been observing School District 163 board meetings on a regular basis for years. Her reports help readers know what is happening in the district and how the various board members respond to the issues. This information should be invaluable when it is time to elect (or to decide to run!) for this board. Her recent reports show the board dealing with financial issues, including a major capital improvement project.

Barbara Sturges has recently begun observing the Rich 227 School District board meetings. That board is in the search process for a new superintendent and also has to decide whether to approve the creation of a charter school in the district.

Full reports from both observers are available on our website, www.lwvpfa.org. If you don't have internet access, you can telephone me and I'll send you hard copies of the desired reports.

Think about observing a local village or school board. It's easy; really interesting; and provides a service to our membership. Contact Mary Truss to volunteer!



Learn about the Illinois Fair Map Amendment – Why We Need It and How We Can Help! *By Sharon A. McGuire*

On Sunday March 7, 2010, at 3 pm, Jan Czarnik, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Illinois will present information on the need for a new process for drawing the boundaries of legislative districts in Illinois. As you'll read elsewhere in this Intercom, the League of Women Voters of Illinois is in the forefront of the effort to make this change!

As members of the League of Women Voters we are aware of the flawed, political system legislators currently use to draw district lines – with decisions made to protect incumbents, without true competition. **The League of Women Voters Illinois needs your help** to change this process and take it from the legislators and put it in the hands of an independent commission in order to make redistricting more transparent, fair, and accessible to the public. In order to do this, **by April 1, 2010 500,000 signatures are needed** on petitions to get the amendment on the November ballot. The League is looking for all of us to do our share to make sure we have those needed signatures. Please visit www.ilfairmap.com to download petitions and directions for completing them. Return petitions to League of Women Voters, 332 South Michigan, Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60604.

Help raise awareness of this amendment by encouraging all your neighbors, friends, and relatives to attend this informative presentation. Invite them to join us to hear Jan Czarnik's presentation on redistricting and the Illinois Fair Map Amendment Sunday, March 7 at 3 pm at Park Forest Village Hall, 350 Victory Drive.



New Members *By Pamela Wickliffe*

Bonjour We welcome new members Maureen (Moe) Forté of East Hazel Crest and Capri Adams of University Park. You may know Maureen from her cable show, *'N the Know with Moe*, on channel 19, Thursdays at 8 pm, www.ntheknowwithmoe.com. Capri is the daughter of League member Dorothy (Dee) Jones. We are so happy to have you as new members of the League.



A New/Prospective Member Reception took place at Rich Township on Saturday, February 13 from 10 to 11:30 am. Thank you to all the current members who took the time to participate in welcoming/educating those are new to learning about the League!





League of Women Voters of Illinois

LWVIL Phonathon *by Sharon A. McGuire*

Our League will participate in this year's Phonathon. We will meet at the University Park Golf and Conference on Friday, March 19th at 5:00 PM. I have asked for eighty names to call, so if we have eight members to agree to call 10 donors, this project should not take long to complete. The following is the *Local League Phonathon Sharing Policy* from the State:

"If your local League participates in making calls for the annual LWVIL Phonathon (scheduled from March 1—April 9, 2010), any gifts mailed to the state League office by your local members prior to May 1, 2010 will be counted toward the total gifts on which your share is based. **Sharing percentage is 15%**. In addition, your League will receive 15% of donations received (not pledges) in response to calls made by your League members to other members whose Leagues are not participating in Phonathon. Phonathon pledge payments will be tallied on June 26, 2010 to determine each participating local League's total. League members making Phonathon calls from home will be reimbursed for any long distance expenses incurred: no reimbursement is made for local calls. Documentation is required to receive reimbursement (copy of phone bill with Phonathon long distance calls clearly marked)."

Please contact Sharon McGuire via email to let her know if you will be able to participate in this year's Phonathon.

LWVUS 49th National Convention *by Sharon A. McGuire*

This year the National Convention will be held June 11—15, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia. All members are invited to join fellow Leaguers for 50 states, the Virgin Island, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs. All League members are invited to attend Convention, but Presidents of local, state and ILO Leagues appoint their allotted delegates. Non-voting members can be part of the excitement as the convention delegate body debates and adopts the 2010-2012 National Program, the LWVUS Budget for the next fiscal year, and amendments to the LWVUS Bylaws. Delegates will also be choosing the LWVUS Board Officers, directors and nominating committee for the next biennium. The convention will be held at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis, located in the downtown area known as Atlanta's heartbeat.

To register and get additional information, visit www.lwv.org

LWVCC—Cook County Matters *by Sharon A. McGuire*

Sunday, April 11th at 3:00 PM Cynthia Schilsky, President of League of Women Voter Cook County, will deliver a presentation entitled, "Cook County Matters". This presentation will take place in the Park Forest Village Hall board room. President Schilsky's will inform our League members and guests the result of a study that was held on deciphering Cook County government, particularly its allocation of expenditures and employees. This study was part of a larger project evaluation the transparency and accountability of Cook County Government. The focus of the study was on departments that reported to President Todd Stroger.

Come out and enjoy an afternoon of information telling us Where Cook County Spends Our Money.



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.



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...and counting



Ninety years ago, Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed a League of Women Voters to “finish the fight” and work to end all discrimination against women. And so the League of Women Voters was founded on Valentine’s Day in 1920, six months before the ratification of the 19 Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Today, we remain a grassroots organization with more than 150,000 members and supporters and 850 Leagues throughout all 50 states. Though the League is known widely for our voter education efforts, we’ve also brought our expertise to critical issues such as health care reform, global climate change and many others.

As we enter into a new year, we know that the League will continue to do what it has been trusted to do for more than 90 years:

- * Discuss the important issues;
- * Ask the difficult questions;
- * And Demand accountability from our government.

And every one of our critical 2010 initiatives will give citizens a greater voice—in the upcoming census, the 2010 elections, the next round of redistricting and more.

to





**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS® OF THE PARK
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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

2/21/10

Program Planning PF Village Hall

3/07/10

**Fair Map Presentation. 3:00 PF
Village Hall**

3/27/10

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

4/11/10

**Cook County League Presentation
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6/11-15/10

**2010 LWV Convention
Atlanta, Georgia**