



Calendar 2008

January

Jan. 8, Tues. 7:00 PM Candidates' Night Forum. 14th Congressional District Norris Cultural Center, St. Charles.

Jan. 10, Thurs. 7:00 PM. Batavia Municipal Center Candidates' Forum. Illinois Legislative Districts and Kane County Board Seats Districts.

Jan. 14, Mon. Early voting begins.

Jan. 21, Mon. 7 pm Board meeting.

Jan. 24, Thurs. Noon. Union League Club. LWVIL State of the State luncheon. Speaker will be Lisa Madigan. Sign up and pay on-line at www.lwvil.org.

Jan. 31, Thurs. 7PM LWV Elgin Area Candidates' Forum. Gail Borden Library. For more information contact Jpoyner@aol.com.

Jan. 31, Thurs. Last day for early voting.

February

Feb. 5, Tues. Primary Election Day. (Two primaries for the 14th Congressional District as well as all other primaries) **VOTE!!**

Feb. 7, Thurs. 6:45-8:15 pm. Panera Bread, 1492 Randall Rd.

Feb. 23, Sat., 8:30 AM-3:00 PM Annual Issues Briefing, LWVIL, Loyola University Chicago-Water Tower Campus. See flyer.

Feb. 24 7:00 PM, LWV Batavia sponsors Batavians for Clean Energy Meeting.

March

March 8, Sat. Special election day for the 14th Congressional District to elect the person to fill out Dennis Hastert's term because of his resignation. **VOTE!!**

President's Letter

Welcome to the beginning of what promises to be a very interesting election year.

- The Mental Health/Developmental Disability Study Group, chaired by Darlene Bakk, held their successful consensus meeting on November 7. See report by Darlene in this issue. Many thanks to the mental health study committee for their hard work over these past two years.
- Our Voter Service Committee, headed by Janet Safanda and co-chair Tara Schwab, has been following candidates for the February primary. We will be working with the *Kane County Chronicle*, *Daily Herald* and *Aurora Beacon* on this forum for the persons running for Dennis Hastert's seat. Patricia Reid Lindner, who is state representative for many of us, also has chosen to retire from office.
- Thanks to chair Rosemary Schroeder, with great assistance from Tara Schwab and Carol Holmes for the planning of our Holiday Fundraiser. And a special thank you to Pietro for his hospitality and for the wonderful hors d'oeuvres.
- Thanks to Voter Service Committee, especially Mary Ann Naas (see her summary), for scheduling training with the Kane County Clerk's office to be trained to train on the E-Slate so that they can educate seniors in retirement facilities so that they are comfortable in voting with E-Slate. Also see Janet Safanda's request for helpers on election day.
- Our new brochure has been printed and looks great. Mary Ann did it in Word, so we will be able to revise it in the future.

Be sure to visit our website for updated information, as well as for election information in this exciting election season. Early voting begins on January 14. Two primaries are taking place on February 5 and a general election on March 8 to elect the person who will fill out the remainder of Dennis Hastert's term. Don't forget to check the web calendar for updates.

Kimberley Haag, President@lwvgenstc.org

For questions or comments about this newsletter, please e-mail editor@lwvgenstc.org.

Thoughtful, Lively Conversation: TLC

We will not be having TLC in January because of the Candidates' Forums. Our next TLC will take place on Thursday, February 7. At this time we will be discussing the questions related to the LWVUS Immigration Study. More information will be sent out prior to the meeting. This is an opportunity to meet with other Leaguers and friends to get together. Place: Panera Bread, 1492 Randall Rd., in the Border's shopping center, from 6:45-8:15 pm.

Press Release for Candidates' Forums on January 8 and January 10.

League of Women Voters of Batavia League of Women Voters of Geneva-St. Charles

Press Release

For Immediate Release
November 23, 2007

Contact: Janet Safanda
League of Women Voters of Geneva-St. Charles
voterservice@lwvgenstc.org

Public Is Invited to Candidate Forums

Candidates vying to replace Dennis Hastert in Congress as representative of the 14th Congressional District will be featured in a League of Women Voters candidates' forum on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 7 pm in St. Charles. The public is invited to attend the forum. Both Democratic and Republican candidates who are running in the February 5 General Primary will participate in the event. The forum will be held at the Norris Cultural Arts Center, 1040 Dunham Road, St. Charles.

The forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Geneva-St. Charles and the League of Women Voters of Batavia in cooperation with the Beacon News, the Daily Herald, and the Kane County Chronicle. Within a moderated format, a panel of reporters will direct questions to the candidates, followed by questions from the audience. Immediately following the forum the audience will be invited to an informal "Meet and Greet the Candidates" session.

The League of Women Voters will also sponsor a public forum focusing on local contested Kane County Board and state legislative races on Thursday, January 10 at 7 pm in the City Council Chambers at Batavia City Hall. Candidates for county board chair, county board district 26, county board district 14, state legislative district 49, and state legislative district 50 have been invited. Questions from the audience will be presented to the candidates.

Information is available at www.lwvgenstc.org.

Mental Health Consensus Meeting Report: November 7, 2007

November's MHDD study consensus meeting was a success. We had over 50 members and non/members attend. Thanks to LWV Geneva/St. Charles panel participants Donna Amburgey, Gina Richter, Kim Haag and Deb Russo. And a special thanks to Batavia member Buzz Hayes who was wonderful at articulating the plight of persons with mental illness. LWV Elgin Area supplied the place, the recorder, the facilitator for the consensus questions, and had more members attend than the other Kane County Leagues.

The next step is to approve the position, which will be done at each Kane County LWV's individual annual meeting in Spring/Summer 2008.

Other great news. Kimberley Haag will be co-facilitating the Kane County Mental Health Council. Additionally she is secretary of the council's data collection committee and organized a teacher training day for the Kane County Regional Educational office which highlights education on mental health issues relating to school age children to be held on February 29.

Submitted by Darlene Bakk

Congratulations and good luck to two of our members running for the District 14th Kane County Board seat. Stop in at our January 10th Candidates' Forum (see calendar for details). They will both be participating!

Mark is the vice-president of Brasel Products in Batavia. He is seeking his second term to represent Kane County District 14. A note from Mark: I am having a meet and greet at Zylstra Harley-Davidson on January 16, 2008 from 5-7p.m. Former Super Bowl Bear, Kurt Becker, will be my special guest. It's a great opportunity for me to get to meet folks and for them to get to see the Zylstra facility and meet one of the 1985 Bears. Mark is the incumbent and has been endorsed by St. Charles Township.

Mark can be contacted at mark@brasel.com or 630-443-9447.

Tina lives in Geneva and was elected Geneva Twp. precinct committee and awarded the 2006 top Republican Performer. She is a licensed professional engineer and is president of her own Engineering Consulting firm. She has served in the United States Air Force and received several service medals for active duty service during Operation Desert Storm.

Tina wants to provide better representation to the County's 14th district citizens. She is concerned about the County's dramatic cost increases and would help streamline the Freedom of Information Act process. She has been endorsed by Geneva Township.

Tina can be contacted at 630-777-9881 or tinayagla@countyboard14.yagla.com

Holiday Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Holiday Fundraiser on December 16. Rosemary Schroeder led us all in Holiday songs, and Tara Schwab did a great job as emcee as well as auctioneer for the donated grab-bag gifts. It is not too late to make a donation to either our League or to the League of Women Voters Educational Fund. Use the envelope you received in the mail or go to our website www.lwvgenstc.org to donate.

Our condolences go out to the friends and family of Pat Ostewig, president of the League of Women Voters of Carpentersville / Dundee. Pat died suddenly of a cerebral aneurysm on December 19, 2007

From the LWVUS:

ACTION ALERT: We Must Restore Civil Liberties

Earlier this year, Congress gave sweeping new surveillance powers to the Executive Branch, including widespread warrantless wiretapping of American citizens, in the so-called Protect America Act.

Now, the Senate is poised to reconsider the Protect America Act. We must make sure that this legislation reinstates protections for civil liberties and reestablishes checks and balances in government. We need you to contact your Senators to insist that they vote to repeal the Protect America Act and to limit the ability of government agencies to obtain information about American citizens without the appropriate judicial constraints.

Take action today to protect Americans against government spying programs!

The Protect America Act was rushed through Congress earlier this year with little public debate. It is critical that the Senate pass legislation that reinstates needed checks and balances. This legislation must ensure that government agencies obtain individual warrants before wiretapping the communications of American citizens and not provide retroactive immunity to telecommunications companies that have provided government agencies with information on their customer's records.

Send a message to your Senators to urge them to vote to repeal the Protect America Act.

TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Senators now, by phone or by email, and tell them to repeal the Protect America Act. Tell them that widespread warrantless wiretapping of Americans is unacceptable in a democracy and any legislation to reform the Protect America Act must clearly state that the government must obtain an individual warrant when it wiretaps the communications of American citizens. Tell your Senators that Congress must also guard against providing retroactive immunity to telecommunications companies that have provided government agencies with information on their customer's records.
2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens in your state - your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Senators today!

Women in the Americas: Paths to Political Participation

On March 28, 2007, the League of Women Voters will join the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Dialogue, and women political leaders from around the world in sponsoring "Women in the Americas: Paths to Political Participation." The day's events, located at the Library of Congress, will include roundtable discussions assessing the progress women have made in gaining access to national leadership positions in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as developing a set of recommendations for governments, international agencies, corporations and civil society groups on how to increase the number of women in public leadership posts. Most of the day's events are open to the press. It will be hosted by: Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Representatives Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), Kay Granger (R-TX), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), Jean Schmidt (R-OH), Hilda Solis (D-CA) and Jerry Weller (R-IL). For more information, see the LWVUS website: www.lwv.org

Election Day Guide

Go to the Right Place □ Poll locations can change. Be sure to locate your polling place before you go to vote. Check www.VOTE411.org or contact the elections office or board of elections for your county, city or state. □

Bring I.D. □ You may need to show I.D. at the polling place. To be safe, bring your driver's license or another photo I.D. In some places, a current utility bill, paycheck or other document that includes your name and street address may also work. □

Get a Ballot □ Don't panic if you registered to vote but your name is not on the list. Get help from a poll worker to make sure your vote is counted. You should be given a provisional ballot or given directions to another polling place. □

Get Help □ Poll workers are there to help you. They'll show you how to use the voting machine or give you a provisional ballot if you need one. Ask, or read the signs at your polling place, which have instructions, list your voting rights, and say how to file a complaint. □

Stay and Vote □ You probably won't have to wait too long. But even if the line is long, don't leave without voting. The outcome of this election will be important! □

Access to Polls and Voting □ Handicapped or elderly voters who cannot access the polling place can request to vote outside the entrance. Make the request to the election authority the day before the election.

From: www.lwvil.org/ElectionDay.asp

E-Slate Training a Big Hit with Seniors By Mary Ann Naas

As part of the Voter Service Committee, and in collaboration with the Batavia League, a few of us have been engaged in e-slate training for the seniors in our community. In November, we joined the "Red Hat Foxes" for tea and cookies at Pottawatomie Senior Center of St. Charles Park District and presented the e-slate to the Red Hat Society. Attendees practiced using the e-slate. In December, we set up e-slate equipment at the Geneva Senior Center in a room adjacent to their wonderful lunches that they offer seniors three days a week. Everyone refreshed their memories by "voting" using the e-slate. On Jan. 24th we will demonstrate at The Reserve in Geneva allowing residents to "practice" using the e-slate.

Thanks to LWV Geneva-St. Charles members Grace Leonard, Lucile Little, Linda Robertson, LWV Batavia pres. Patti Lackman, and Gloria Emma from the County Clerk's office for their participation in this program. It has been a rewarding experience to network with our seniors and to offer outreach to our community. The seniors have enjoyed it as well. We hope to continue this training at other senior facilities throughout 2008. To join us, e-mail voterservice@lwvgenstc.org.

Please Join Us

\$60 one-year **Individual Membership**
\$90 one-year **Household Membership** for two members who share address
\$25 one-year **Student Membership**

Make check out to League of Women Voters of Geneva St. Charles.
Send to: PO BOX 824, St. Charles, IL 60175.
The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization of women and men, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education.

Will You Help?

Once again, our League has an opportunity to assist the election process while earning some money for our League. We need volunteers to pick up provisional ballots at polling places on election day, February 5. It involves a time commitment of about 2 to 3 hours. Please e-mail Janet Safanda at voterservice@lwvgenstc.org if you are interested.

Pay by PayPal

If you would like to pay your dues using PayPal, send an email to Kim Haag at President@lwvgenstc.org and she will send you an invoice.



OF ILLINOIS

OF WOMEN VOTERS

LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2008

Loyola University Chicago-Water Tower Campus:
Loyola Law Center • Rubloff Auditorium • 25 East Pearson • Chicago

Registration, Breakfast and Networking Starts at 8:30 a.m.

Issue Programs 9:15 a.m. to Noon

- The Pros and Cons of having a Constitutional Convention
- **LWV Advocacy & Front-Burner Issues:** *Updates on State Fiscal Policy, Environmental Protection & Pollution Control and the ShowUs Amendment*

LUNCHEON: Noon to 1 p.m.

WORKSHOPS: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (select one)

- **Education Funding:** Discussion of the impact of state funding on local school programs, such as gifted – how to involve your League in educating and energizing your local areas
- **Immigration:** Effect on the community of deputizing local police or choosing alternative approaches—learn about successful programs
- **Global Warming:** Ways to implement Natural Resources positions, educate the public and promote action

Directions to the 2007 Issues Briefing:

Driving: The event is located on the corner of Pearson and Wabash in Chicago. For driving directions, consult www.mapquest.com. Public parking information is available at <http://www.luc.edu/parking/watertower.shtml>. (Parking at 900 N. Michigan Ave. is available for \$6.00 when validated by Loyola at Water Tower Campus.)

Public Transportation: Red Line Chicago/State stop. For information on traveling via CTA, visit www.transitchicago.com.

Overnight Accommodations: For assistance booking hotel rooms in downtown Chicago, refer to www.hotrooms.com (800/468-3500).

To Register for the Issues Briefing, Complete and Return the Registration Form on the Next Page by February 11, 2008.

REGISTRATION FORM: Issues Briefing 2008

Name: _____ League: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ **\$45 per person** (includes continental breakfast, lunch, briefing packet and workshop materials)

_____ **MORNING Program only: \$25 per person** (includes continental breakfast and briefing packet)

_____ **AFTERNOON Program only: \$30 per person** (includes lunch and workshop materials)

Afternoon Workshops: (Select One)

___ ***Education Funding***

___ ***Immigration***

___ ***Global Warming***

Forward your registration form and fees to:

League of Women Voters of Illinois
332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1150
Chicago, IL 60604
Attn: Issue's Briefing Registration

Please make checks payable to *LWVIL*

Registration forms due by February 11, 2008

The League accepts Visa and MasterCard for your convenience.

Credit Card #: _____ **Exp. Date:** _____

Signature (required): _____

