



Calendar 2009

March

March 2, Mon, 7 PM. Voter Service Committee at Janet Safanda's home. For more info. contact voterservice@lwvgenstc.org.

March 3, Tues, 7 PM Tea with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Geneva History Center. 113 S. 3rd. See page 2.

March 12, Thurs, 7 PM. Board Meeting. Janet Safanda's home. Members welcome to attend. For more information, contact president@lwvgenstc.org

March 14, Sat., 1-2 PM Presentation by former state Sen. Steve Rauschenberger. Gail Borden Library. Elgin. Talk will cover, ethics, government and Illinois reform. Sponsored by LWV Elgin Area.

March 15, Sun. 1-3 PM . St. Charles Candidates' Forum. St. Charles Library, 1 S. 6th Avenue.

March 16-Apr. 2, Mon. Early voting.

March 18, Wed. 7 PM. Environmental Committee Meeting. Linda Robertson's home. For more information., contact environmental@lwvgenstc.org

March 22, Sun. 1-3 PM Geneva Candidates' Forum. Geneva Library. 127 James Street.

April

April 4, Sat. 9-11 AM PBIS Forum. South Elgin High School. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. New date and location. See website for updates. www.lwvgenstc.org

April 7, Tues. 6 AM-7PM. Consolidated Election.

April 21, Tues. 7 PM Environmental Presentation by Geneva Alderman Chuck Brown. Fox Valley Presbyterian Church. 227 East Side Dr., Geneva.

April 28, Tues. Annual Meeting. Details will be forthcoming.

Upcoming

May 22, Fri. 4:00 PM Merger Meeting regarding the Merger of LWV of Geneva/St. Charles and Batavia.

June 12-14. LWVIL Convention. East Peoria, IL.

President's letter

Please save the date for our upcoming annual meeting on **Tuesday, April 28th**. Look for details on program/goals, proposed budget and nominations in a separate mailing at the end of March. We hope you will help celebrate our 2008-2009 successes. This is always a fun event!

GOOD NEWS! Recently, the Leagues in Kane County were awarded a pass-through grant to conduct a public documents audit. Many of us will be working on this coming up this spring. We'll keep you updated.

Thanks to Janet Craft for setting up the legislative interviews which will take place in the next month. Thanks to Voter Service Chairs, Janet Safanda and Tara Schwab for all their work on organizing the candidate forums in 2008 as well as for those coming up this spring.

Special thanks to VP and member service chair Mary Ann Naas who managed the member data base, finished designing our professional looking membership pamphlets and posters and created a membership packet to send to new members. Moreover, she created and organized an e-slate educational training for seniors and coordinated trainers with help from Batavia LWV. Thanks too to board leaders who spearheaded committees. Kim Haag and Linda Robertson for the environmental and Deb Russo for the time she spent on the MIDD housing action group.

Thanks to Martha Ryan for coordinating our new on-line voter guide and Kim again for working as newsletter editor, secretary and representing our league on the Kane County Mental Health Council. Thanks to Carrie Carter and Maureen McKeough for budget issues and finances. In addition, thanks to Fran Nohling for chairing the nomination committee.

This will be my last president's letter. The League's election will bring in a new president and board. However, I will continue to participate in educational and advocacy projects which assist in strengthening democracy in our communities. Thanks to all the members who support the league and have participated in activities over the year. We couldn't have done it without you!

The Board is always interested in hearing your comments and suggestions. Send to league@lwvgenstc.org.

Darlene Bakk, President

Dues are Due!!

Don't forget! Yearly dues are due by April 30. See page 3 for our address or to use Pay Pal.

Candidate Forums in March

Janet Safanda, Voter Service Chair

The principal work of the Voter Service committee this spring is organizing candidate forums to help prepare voters for the April 7 local elections. St. Charles mayoral and aldermanic candidates will be featured in a public forum on Sunday, **March 15** at 1 pm at the St. Charles Public Library. It is possible this forum will include pro and con speakers regarding the St. Charles school referendum. Geneva aldermanic, school board, and library board candidates will be presented in a public forum on Sunday, **March 22** at 1 pm at the Geneva Public Library.

The Voter Service committee will also lead the League's election day activities. The county clerk's office has once again asked the League to assist in picking up provisional ballots precinct sites on election day. This effort helps the county ensure that all votes are counted. At the same time, it helps the League earn some funding. It also gives us a chance to observe some of the election day proceedings.

Both the forums and the election day tasks offer **volunteer opportunities** for League members. The next meeting of the voter service committee is March 2 at 7 pm. at Janet Safanda's home.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Janet Safanda at voterservice@lwvgenstc.org

Please Give Us Your Input

As reported in the November/December Issue in the Voter, in June 2009, the League of Women Voters of Illinois will hold its biannual convention. One of the most important responsibilities for local League members is to be able to select the critical and timely issues that will impact public policy in Illinois.

At our Board meeting on Feb. 20, we recommended to retain all of the current positions with two exceptions. We recommended to drop the polity issue on County Government Structure. We recommended to restudy the Pesticide policy with the following statement: *We suggest that the Pesticide policy be restudied and updated for a more nuanced view of pesticides with consideration of best practices and the latest scientific findings.*

We would like input from you, our members, as to which issues are of interest to you and/or if you have opinions about our recommendations. If you have a strong interest in a League issue being restudied or dropped, please contact editor@lwvgenst.org before March 5. These issues are listed here. For more information about these issues, please see: <http://www.lwvil.org/WhereWeStand.asp>

Government

Constitutional Implementation and Amendments
County Government Structure
Criminal Justice
Death Penalty Abolition
Gun Violence Prevention
Schools
State Election Laws
State Fiscal Policies
State Redistricting

Natural Resources

Land Use
Large-Scale Livestock Facilities
Pesticides

Social Policy

Children's Services
Immigration
Income Assistance
Mental Health

Merger Committee written by Kim Haag

The Merger Committee, working on the merger of the Leagues of Women Voters of Batavia and Geneva/St. Charles has met twice. The goal of this committee is to expedite the merger of the Leagues of Women Voters of Batavia and Geneva/St. Charles to become one League called the League of Women Voters of Central Kane County at our annual meeting 2010.

Geneva/St. Charles members Janet Safanda, Janet Craft, Linda Robertson, Jamie Daniel, Kim Haag and Batavia members Lynn Elam, Susan Russo, Debbie Prebys and Char Kreuze are the members of this committee.

Some of the items we have been addressing are:

- Drafting one set of by-laws
- Determining the boundaries by zip code of the new League
- Budget and bank account merging, which will take place after the official merger is completed
- The merging of local programming, which will be ongoing
- The determination of Board officers and members, which will take place at our annual meetings in 2010

Just in case you're interested...

I have been hearing the phrase *quid pro quo* very often lately while listening to political news shows. I was interested in the origin.

It literally means: a favor or advantage granted or expected in return for something. It originated in the 16th century in the Latin language and referred to substituting one medicine for another.

I guess in the case of Illinois, it has been a case of bad medicine--in larges doses.

Kim Haag, Voter Editor

Environmental Committee By Kimberley Haag, Chair

On Thursday, February 19, there was an informative presentation on environmental issues at the St. Charles Library.

Kate Delahunt Schrank of the Environmental Law and Policy Center gave an update on the Clean Car Act that is before the Illinois General Assembly. This act, if passed, would make Illinois the 15th state to abide by the California guidelines for fuel efficiency for automobiles, which is a stricter policy than federal guidelines. For more information you can contact her at Kate@CleanCarsIllinois.org

Tom Van Cleave, Chair of the Kane County Energy and Environmental Technology Committee and Karen Kosky, Watershed Engineer of Kane County, presented the goals and purpose of this newly formed committee of the Kane County Board. This committee was just formed in January to address the environmental issues facing Kane County. This committee will be addressing issues ranging from solid waste and making county buildings more energy efficient as well as the challenges of growth in the western part of the county. The committee meets usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM in the Kane County government center. See the County website for meeting details as well as meeting minutes. <http://www.countyofkane.org/Pages/default.aspx> For more information on the environmental committee, contact environmental@lwvgenstc.org

Welcome returning member:

Jean Pierce from Geneva

Celebrate Women's History Month at the Geneva History Center

The Geneva History Center will be kicking off Women's History Month with a dramatic portrayal of Suffragists **Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton** on Tuesday, March 3 at 7 p.m. Lynn Rymarz and Jeanmarie Dwyer-Wrigley will portray the iconic duo in a performance titled, **Tea with Susan B. and Elizabeth C.** Tues., March 3, 7 PM
For more info. call 630-232-4951 or go to www.genevahistorycenter.org

Action Committee Report February 2009

Janet Craft, Action Chair

S-CHIP

Extension of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) passed Congress and was signed by President Obama. It was supported by league as part of a long-held national position on universal health care. The LWVIL Action Alerts you received on S-CHIP were based on this position.

State Legislative Interviews

Appointments were made for State Legislative Interviews as follows:

--Rep. Tim Schmitz 49th District, March 2, 9:00 a.m.
Geneva

--Rep. Kay Hatcher 50th District, March 2, 10:30 a.m.
Yorkville

--Senator Chris Lauzen, 25th District, March 3, 11:00 a.m.
Aurora

Presently, we have volunteers to cover the interviews but we can use several more. I look forward to hearing, first hand, the opinions and plans of our Senator and Representatives on the challenges facing the State of Illinois. Also, we will alert them to LWVIL priority issues: the Illinois Fiscal Crisis; Abolition of the death penalty; Judicial Elections - Public Financing and Performance Evaluations; Election Laws and Social Policy (Criminal justice). Instructions and the detailed questions are at www.lwvil.org on the home page.

JOIN US!!

We invite you to join the League of Women Voters Geneva/St. Charles.

\$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.

Pay by PayPal

Pay your dues with Pay Pal. Go to our website <http://www.lwvgenstc.org/join.html> Go to the bottom of the page and click the amount you wish to pay. This is for both new and renewal memberships. You do not need to have a PayPal account in order to utilize PayPal.

***LWV Geneva/St. Charles Action
Chair Janet Craft, LWV Elgin
Area President Janet Poyner,
Representative Bill Foster, LWV
President Geneva/St. Charles
Darlene Bakk, LWV Batavia
President Patti Lachman***

LWV Geneva St. Charles, Elgin Area and Batavia representatives met with Congressman Foster last month to discuss his views and answers to: 1) What should the federal government do to ensure that every American has health care coverage? 2) Do you support legislation to set a declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions, based on the available science in order to combat global climate change? and 3) What will you do to help reduce the level of partisanship at the federal level that has blocked progress on a number of important national issues in recent years?

LWVIL Issues Briefing January 31, 2009

Kimberley Haag

On January 31, the LWVIL held its annual Issues Briefing in Chicago. Members Darlene Bakk, Carol Holmes, Janet Craft and Batavia member Patti Lachman attended. Some very interesting topics were discussed.

Illinois State Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, representing the 25th district was the opening speaker. She spoke of the critical issues facing Illinois at this time.

The most crucial issue facing Illinois right now is the fiscal crisis. We have an almost \$3 billion dollar deficit. Agencies are not getting their payments in a timely fashion. Medicaid reimbursements are not there. The costs next year will be even higher. Unemployment causes even more difficulty not only because of payments needed for the unemployment compensation but because the unemployed do not contribute via income taxes. The money from the federal stimulus plan can help but it won't get us out of the hole we are in. Capital projects may get more money but we will probably need to come up with some money of our own. We will also need to figure out how to evaluate the programs money will be given to.

Elissa Johnson from the U.S. Census Bureau spoke of the upcoming U.S. Census. The Illinois League will be involved in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau that will be collected in 2010. The census is crucial because representation in the House of Representatives is based upon it so it has a direct effect on voters in Illinois.

David Morrison, Deputy Director for Illinois Campaign for Political Reform. Morrison talked about how long it took to pass the *Pay to Play* bill. Basically state contractors should not be giving large amount of money to the official who oversees projects the contractor is working on. Former Gov. Blagojevich vetoed it the first time, but the House passed it again. Sen. Emil Jones finally called it for another vote when then President-Elect Obama called and asked for it to be brought to the floor.