



League Links

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters
of the Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Buffalo Grove Area
Including Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Elk Grove Village, Illinois

We are online at: <http://www.lwvah.org/>

September 2011

Volume 57, Issue 3

Celebrating 55 years of community service

Our Mission Statement/Purpose: The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Activity Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, Sept 22	7 PM	Palatine League Education Study Meeting, PALATINE VILLAGE HALL, 200 E. Wood St., Palatine 60067 (No meeting at Arlington Heights Historical Society)
Saturday, Sept 24	All Day	"Moving Planet": A Global Day of Climate Action See page 8.
Tuesday, Sept 27	7 PM	Board Meeting, Ilene Strauss', 638 Sycamore Rd., Buffalo Grove 60089
Thursday, October 6	7 PM	Fourth Education Study Chat: Funding and Equity Issues, Joyce Marks', 200 W. Campbell, Apt. 411, Arlington Heights 60005
October 13, 19, 22		Education Study Speakers. See page 4.
Thursday, October 20	7 PM	Education Study Panel: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, Arlington Heights Historical Society, 104 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights
Friday and Saturday October 21 and 22		Lake Michigan LWV Annual Meeting, Hilton Oak Lawn. Oak Lawn near I-294. Registration due October 10. See page 7.
Tuesday, Oct 25	TBD	LWVCC Lunch and Learn on Cook County Forest Preserve District. See page 7.
Thursday, Nov 17	7PM	Education Consensus Meeting: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, Arlington Heights Historical Society, 104 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights

The League of Women Voters gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Horner Group in providing all the printing, postage and mailing services for our bulletins.



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Message from the LWVUS President



Women's Equality Day, August 26th The 91st anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Which Guaranteed Women the Right to Vote.

Past history?

Not to our national League President, Elizabeth McNamara, who shared these thoughts about how that past event affects today's events, and the impact of women voting:

"While women have made enormous strides, our leaders are making decisions that erode much of the work of several generations of women voters in making our society safer and more secure for families and children. From taxes to health care to access to voting and education, many of the protections that we fought for and have come to depend on are currently at risk. Many of the issues confronting our country today have the greatest impact on women and children.

"This year, it's more important than ever that we look to the future and our potential to change the debate on major issues. Women understand the importance of sensible government regulation that protects families from predatory practices by financial institutions and protects our public health from polluting industries. Women understand that seemingly benign requirements such as voter ID and proof of citizenship disproportionately impact not only the poor and disabled, but also young adults and women.

"Despite the heady progress that we made in the last half of the 20th century to protect our environment, open our electoral process to diverse viewpoints and protect the average consumer, the fight for those vital, common sense protections is not over.

"This is a good time to remind our communities and our leaders that women were instrumental in making our society a safer, fairer place, and we will continue to fight fiercely for the welfare of our families and our communities!"

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FALL FOCUS: The Education Study The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education

By Cathy Duoba, Program Chair

Our September Program on Education will be at Palatine's Village Hall. That's right, our September Program will be the Palatine Area League's presentation, at the PALATINE VILLAGE HALL, Thursday, Sept 22nd, 7 PM, 200 E. Wood St., Palatine 60067.

In order to maximize limited women power, our two Leagues agreed to joint efforts. Palatine members have been attending our Summertime Chats, and our members will attend their Education Study Discussion Meeting. The program will be a combo of a LWVUS power point and the information Palatine members are gathering from their interviews with professionals in the education field (like we did with the immigration studies). If you have not been coming to the Summertime Chats, on the various study issues, I sincerely urge you to attend this meeting. Members will get an overall review of the study. This study meeting will summarize material from the LWVUS background papers and the information gathered from interviews with local educators.

**Our Fourth Chat
Thursday, October 6, at 7 PM**

Topic: Funding and Equity Issues

**Hosted by Joyce Marks
200 W. Campbell, Apt.411, Arlington Heights
RSVP 847-253-3410**

The study paper is available on our website (www.lwvah.org). Please read the paper and come prepared for lively discussion and debate.

Thanks to Our Chat Hostesses and to
All Those Who Come to "Make Learning Fun"

August hostesses were Joyce Marks and Cathy Duoba as publicized in the August League Links. Fay Michaelis hosted our third chat on September 7, on the topic: [Legislation and Funding for the Education of Children Who are Disadvantaged](#). If you haven't had an opportunity to attend a chat, there is still time to plan to attend the last one at Joyce Marks" on October 6 (see above). This may be the most challenging discussion yet.

October 20th Program: Education Study Panel

The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education will be the focus of the October 20th Program. It will feature a distinguished panel of local education professionals, similar to the panel on No Child Left Behind from several years ago. We have invited two favorites from that panel: Dr. Steve Cordogan, Director of Research and Planning for District 214, and Dr. Nancy Wagner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction for CCSD 59. Another administrator and a representative of the teachers' perspective will be added to the panel. There will be opportunity for dialogue among the panelists and with the audience. More details will be in the October bulletin. Consensus will be reached at our November Meeting.

How to Become an Education Guru

Read the study papers researched and developed by the LWVUS Study Committee

We need the informed comments of all our members to get a comprehensive consensus. The background papers, available on our website (www.lwvah.org), are a great source of research and data on each of the study issues. The bibliographies provide additional information sources.

Please note if you used our website to access these papers during August, we regret to report that the papers listed then were VERY shortened versions, missing most of the research/data and prepared for use in monthly bulletins. Please visit www.lwvah.org again to insure that you have the appropriate papers and all the information you need to answer the consensus questions.

Common Core Standards and Assessments, by Janelle L. Rivers, PhD

Early Childhood Education, Equity, and Funding, by Pat Aaron

Funding and Equity Issues, by Jean Pierce

Legislation and Funding for the Education of Children Who Are Disadvantaged,

by Patricia O'Brien Libutti

Role of Federal Government in Public Education: Historical Perspectives by Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins and Margaret Hawkins Hill

Education Study Speakers

There are some really exciting and interesting programs being produced by other Leagues.

For example, LWV Greater Rockford (with 3 other Leagues) presents:

Common Core Standards, September 26, featuring **Dr. Susan Udelhofen**. Dr. Udelhofen, the author of two books on curriculum development, is currently working with 5 states to incorporate the new common core standards into each state's education standards.

Our old League favorite on the State Budget Crisis, **Ralph Matire**, Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, was appointed by Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan to a national DOE commission to study equity and funding. He will be the speaker for several Leagues' Education Programs:

Thursday, October 13, 7:30 PM, at Downers Grove Fire Dept Administration Building

Wednesday, October 19, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at Batavia Public Library

Saturday, October 22, 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon and **Saturday, November 5**, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Palos Heights Library

For more information, call Cathy Duoba, 847-437-6956.



OPPOSE SLOTS AT ARLINGTON PARK AND SENATE BILL 744

Now is the time to ask Governor Quinn again to veto Senate Bill 744. He has been pondering his decision and meeting with opponents and supporters of the bill. He may take action soon.

SB 744 is the largest gambling expansion bill in Illinois history. It authorizes casinos for Chicago and 4 other communities, slot machines at Arlington Park Racetrack and 6 other racetracks, and additional gaming positions at the 10 existing casinos in Illinois. Also, it weakens the role of the Illinois Gaming Board and does not provide funding for the additional work that the expanded gambling would require.

Concerns expressed by the majority of Arlington Heights Village Trustees about saving Arlington Park Racetrack and the need to supplement current village tax revenue need to be put into perspective. Arlington Park officials have said they need slots for income so they can pay larger pursers to the winning horse owners. But the US Supreme Court has ruled that the subsidies (impact fees) collected from Illinois' four most profitable casinos must be released to the racetracks. Arlington Park has received its share and began paying larger purses in mid August. Also, the new Rivers Casino in Des Plaines is required to pay 15% of all its revenues to the horse tracks, so that income should begin to be available soon. Furthermore, several new stores and restaurants have opened or been approved for development or redevelopment. The vacant Sheraton Hotel adjacent to Arlington Park has been purchased by a developer, who is moving forward with new ideas for this property.

He says his business model does not depend on business from the racetrack.

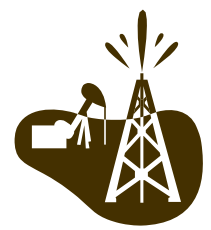
ACT NOW. Contact Governor Quinn to ask him to veto SB 744 and to express opposition to slots at Arlington Park. Phone 312-814-2121 or 217-782-6830 or 800-642-3112. To email go to www.illinois.gov/gov and click on "contact us". Even if you have done this before, it is time to do it again.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Nancy Duel at 847-259-3793 or nduel@aol.com.

GIFT CARDS EARNED \$76 IN AUGUST

Four members enriched our League treasury by \$76 in August just by purchasing Manna gift cards. They received the full value of the cards they purchased, and they did not need to have cash handy in their wallets when they shopped. Imagine how much our League could earn if every member got involved in this easy fund raiser. Gift cards are available for your grocery shopping, office supplies, restaurants, fast food, and much more. Look over the gift card brochure in this bulletin. Mail your completed order form to Nancy Duel or contact her at 847-259-3793 or nduel@aol.com.

Reversals for Clean Air, Clean Water



Most information taken from the Natural Resources Defense Council website. Check out nrdc.org for more fact-backed information on all these issues.

Three recent developments have caused deep concern to environmentalists.

1. The Obama Administration's refusal to enact the smog regulations urged by their own EPA (not even enacting the milder regulations developed but not implemented by President Bush.)
2. The permission issued by the Obama Administration to build the Keystone XL Pipeline, The pipeline would transport toxic tar sands oil from under Canada's Boreal forest to oil refineries in Texas, increasing the production on one of the dirtiest forms of oil and threatening rivers and communities all along the way. The State Department, not the EPA, was charged with developing the environmental impact review and found "no significant impact".
3. The Shale Gas Subcommittee (SGS) of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board just released a draft 90-day report with recommendations to reduce the *potential* environmental impacts from shale gas production. The report found that natural gas production is not clean, the industry is in need of a major make-over in order to protect clean air and clean water, but allows ever-increasing drilling to proceed while more research and data is collected.

Fracing Update

This third outcome was not unexpected as 6 of the 7 members of the Subcommittee are tied to the oil and gas industry. Many objected to this make-up, for example this letter from the scientific community to Energy Secretary Chu:

"As scientists from 22 universities and institutions in 13 states, we are writing to express our concern over the lack of impartiality on the Natural Gas Subcommittee...urge you to modify the panel's membership so that the panel can make recommendations on hydraulic fracturing that are unbiased and scientifically sound."

According to the NRDC, some of the recommendations are good but

NRDC disagrees that the impacts are "*potential*". {i.e. no immediate action is needed}

NRDC disagrees with the SGS assumption that technological advances that improve the efficiency in shale gas production will necessarily reduce environmental impacts. {i.e. the Market will correct the situation without governmental intervention/interference}

There is a reliance on *State* regulation when the report itself found there is a wide range in procedures followed in the field with regard to well casing, cementing, testing, monitoring, and venting. The subcommittee wrote: "There are no common leakage criteria for intervention." Plus, cash-strapped States with staff lay-offs lack proper inspection and enforcement resources.

The SGS recommends a shale gas industry production organization dedicated to continuous improvement of best practice through development and dissemination of standards and assessing compliance. As NRDC wrote in their comments to the SGS, they support creation of such an institution, but it should be a *third-party* organization that is *independently* organized and managed, such as the Forest Stewardship Council. {i.e., NOT like the SGS itself}

The SGS shies away from any statements about drinking water contamination caused by shale gas operations, yet state regulators in Colorado, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Ohio have found a direct causal link between natural gas operations and groundwater contamination.

NRDC Urges

"It's vital that the secretary (Chu): 1) adopt the report; and 2) call on the SGS to come forward with a second set of broader, more comprehensive recommendations in the next three months. The Obama administration should use these recommendations to develop an action plan to apply these recommendations right away. It's crucial (they) be put into practice and that they don't just gather dust on a shelf."



LWVCC OCTOBER LUNCH & LEARN

The Cook County League has scheduled the next Lunch & Learn event for Tuesday, October 25. Cook County Forest Preserve General Superintendent Arnold Randall will be the guest speaker. Look for more details in October bulletin.

News from Lake Michigan LWV Come to Annual Meeting 2011, Lake Michigan LWV

“Toxic to Treasures” Trolley Tour of the Lake Calumet Area is one of many activities you are invited to experience at the 2011 Annual Meeting. You may participate in all or some of the activities offered on Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22, at the Hilton Oak Lawn, in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The hotel is conveniently located near I-294, southwest of Chicago.

On Friday evening keynote speaker Todd Main, Deputy Director of Illinois Department of Natural Resources, will speak about Invasive Species, including latest news on the Asian Carp and the Millennium Reserve System. On Saturday Debra Shore, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and Judy Beck, Lake Michigan Manager of US EPA, will give reports. Go to <http://lakemichiganlww> for schedule of events.

Even if you can attend only a few of the activities, Lake Michigan LWV wants you to participate. You will find the registration form with cost of Trolley Tour and several meal plan options at <http://lakemichiganlww>. (Trolley Tour may sell out early.) Mail registration form and check by Monday, October 10. For more information contact Krista Grimm, 708-253-5376. Sign up so you can join the walking tour of Beaubien Woods, another activity on the agenda. Room arrangements must be made separately with the Hilton (800-315-1058) by September 30, for a discounted League group rate.

NEWS FROM LWVIL



On Tuesday, August 16, 2011, the League of Women Voters of Illinois filed suit in Federal Court in Chicago seeking to overturn the recently-enacted General Assembly and Congressional district maps in Illinois. Listening to past remarks by the Supreme Court, LWVIL’s suit asks a federal court in Chicago to uphold the First Amendment rights of the voters of Illinois. (Previous suits have used the Fourteenth Amendment’s due process clause.) Illinois is a fairly evenly divided state, but, depending on who is in power, redistricting maps rarely reflect this. According to the Chicago Tribune Editorial August 21, “The Congressional map is designed to flip the state’s Washington delegation from 11-8 Republican to 12-6 Democratic...The League of Women Voters makes a convincing argument that by sorting residents into districts based on how they’re expected to vote, lawmakers manipulate the opinions that are expressed and heard in those districts.”



League Participates in White House Meeting on Ozone Regulation

LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate participated in a meeting at the White House concerning EPA's proposal for a stricter ozone regulation. The League was one of the environmental and public health coalition partners who met with White House Chief of Staff William Daley, and staff from the EPA and the Office of Management and Budget. We urged the Administration to release the regulation, which is being opposed by business and other interests.

Ed. Note: On Friday, September 2, the Administration announced there will be no new regulations.

800,000 Strong for Kids Health, Against Mercury Pollution

The EPA heard from thousands of Americans that it's time to protect kids and cut dangerous mercury and toxic pollution. Americans submitted more than 800,000 comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in support of curbing dangerous mercury and other toxic pollution from coal-fired power plants, the most ever received in support of an EPA proposed rule. The LWVUS and 8 other organizations issued a joint statement "speaking out for kids' health and against mercury pollution...especially at a time when polluters are attacking EPA and safeguards that protect all Americans. Clean air saves lives. Most Americans understand that...It is time to move forward with protective standards that reduce dangerous air pollution like mercury, arsenic and lead...The health benefits of cleaning up mercury pollution far outweigh inflated industry claims about cost."

"Moving Planet": A Global Day of Climate Action on September 24

In 2010, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere was just shy of 390 parts per million (ppm) -- well beyond the 350 ppm that leading climate scientists say is the safe upper limit for CO₂ in our atmosphere. Despite the evidence that burning fossil fuels is the chief culprit, efforts to curb CO₂ emissions are at a standstill. To change the political dynamic, people across the globe will mobilize on September 24, calling attention to the need to get off of fossil fuels and move towards a sustainable, renewably-powered future. To find a rally near you and for more information go to www.moving-planet.org/

No Summer Vacation for the League's Redistricting Experts:

The League has not slowed its efforts to promote a fair and accountable redistricting process. LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara joined longtime Congressman and civil rights leader Rep. John Lewis, voting rights experts and 300+ individuals at a special event on the continuing importance of the Voting Rights Act to protect voters' rights during redistricting. Elsewhere, the California League praised the overwhelming public participation that went into the state's first-ever Independent Commission process for redrawing lines, and the Ohio League sponsored a competition to encourage the creation of citizen-drawn redistricting plans. The Founders believed in checks and balances to limit power. Washington today is not checks and balances, but stalemate. With every state currently focused on redistricting, work is needed for transparency and public input into a process that too often protects the status quo.

Voter Protection, Voter Rights

League efforts to protect the voter continue unabated. In **Maine**, the League is a lead petitioner in a people's veto campaign to reinstate same-day registration. The League in **New Hampshire** is working hard to uphold the governor's veto of voter ID as the state Senate plans to consider that veto in September. In **South Carolina**, the League is helping individuals alert the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) about just how onerous the new ID law is and has signed on to a comment letter to the Voting Section Chief of the Civil Rights Division of the DOJ. The letter concerns voting changes that would limit the acceptable forms of ID for in-person voters. As the voter registration season reaches its peak September in **Florida**, the League continues its efforts for review of their new election law by the Justice Department. In **Ohio**, the state League is gathering signatures for a referendum to stop Ohio's new election reform law from going into effect.

HOW GIFT CARDS EARN REVENUE

The gift card distributor acts on behalf of non-profit organizations to purchase large amounts of scrip from retailers. Because the scrip is purchased with cash up front, the participating retailers offer substantial discounts. Our League buys the gift cards at a discount, and re-sells the cards for full face value. You spend the money you would spend anyway, and League of Women Voters gains income for our treasury to supplement our dues, for programs and projects we do throughout the year.

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August and September 2011

- **Purchase cards to give as gifts**
- **Purchase cards to buy gifts**
- **Purchase cards to buy groceries, office supplies, clothing, books, sporting goods, housewares, gasoline, pharmacy items.**
- **Purchase cards to donate to food pantries or homeless shelters**
- **Purchase cards for your favorite restaurants.**

No matter what cards you purchase you will be assisting League of Women Voters in its fundraising.

THANK YOU

Apparel & Accessories	%	Qty	Total	Home Decor	%	Qty	Total
Claire's Boutique \$10	9			Bed Bath and Beyond \$25	6		
Lands End \$25	14			Crate and Barrel \$25	6		
LL Bean \$25	18			Crate and Barrel \$100	6		
Old Navy \$25	9			Yankee Candle \$25	9		
Talbot's \$25	9			Home Improvement	%	Qty	Total
Books	%	Qty	Total	Ace Hardware \$25	4		
Barnes and Noble \$10	9			Home Depot \$25	4		
Barnes and Noble \$25	9			Lowes \$25	4		
Department Stores	%	Qty	Total	Menards \$25	3		
Carson Pirie Scott \$25	9			Restaurants & Fast Food	%	Qty	Total
Carson Pirie Scott \$100	9			Applebee's \$25	8		
JC Penney \$25	5			Baja Fresh \$10	7		
JC Penney \$100	5			California Pizza \$25	4		
Kohl's \$25	4			Chili's \$25	11		
Kohl's \$100	4			Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10	11		
Macy's \$25	10			Domino's Pizza \$10	8		
Macy's \$100	10			Egg Harbor \$15	4		
Sears \$25	4			Lettuce Entertain \$100	13		
Sears \$250	4			Oberweis \$10	9		
Electronics and Office	%	Qty	Total	Olive Garden \$25	8		
Best Buy \$25	3			Panera \$10	8		
Best Buy \$100	3			Pizza Hut \$10	8		
Office Depot \$25	4			Starbucks \$10	7		
Office Max \$25	4			Steak and Shake \$10	8		
Office Max \$100	4			Subway \$10	3		
Staples \$25	5			TGI Fridays \$25	8		
Staples \$100	5			Specialty Retailer	%	Qty	Total
Entertainment	%	Qty	Total	Bath and Body Works \$10	14		
AMC \$6.50 single admit	4			Bath and Body Works \$25	14		
AMC \$25 Gift Card	8			JoAnn Fabric \$20	6		
Gasoline	%	Qty	Total	Petsmart \$25	4		
Marathon \$25	3			Sporting Goods	%	Qty	Total
Marathon \$100	3			Dick's Sporting Goods \$25	6		
Shell \$50	3			Eddie Bauer \$25	9		
Shell \$100	3			Sports Authority \$25	8		
Speedway \$25	4			Miscellaneous	%	Qty	Total
Speedway \$100	4			Amazon.com \$100	4		
Groceries	%	Qty	Total	Fannie May \$20	24		
Dominick's \$25	4			Honey Baked Ham \$20	9		
Dominick's \$100	4			Jiffy Lube \$25	9		
Jewel \$25	4			Walgreens \$25	6		
Jewel \$100	4			Walgreens \$100	6		
Mariano's \$25	4			Other Requests			
Mariano's \$100	4						
Sara Lee \$10	13			TOTAL DUE			\$



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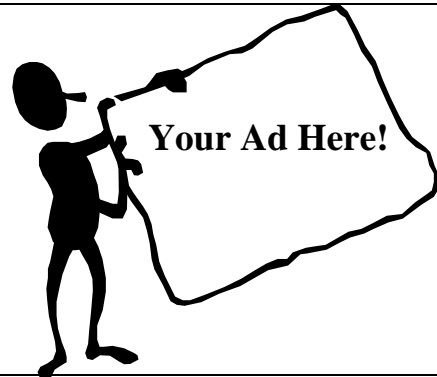
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