



# 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/>

October 2011

Volume 57, Issue 4

## 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.

Date	Time	Event
October 6, Thursday	7 PM	Fourth Education Study Chat: Funding and Equity Issues; Joyce Marks', 200 W. Campbell, Apt 411, Arlington Heights 60005
October 19, Wednesday	7:30 PM	Education Study Speaker Ralph Matire Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability to speak at Downers Grove Fire Department Administration Building.
October 20, Thursday	10AM-noon 7-9 PM	District 25 Community Conversation on Common Core Standards, presented by Dr. Sarah Jerome, Supt. and Dr. Dale Truding, Asst. Supt for Student Learning; Arlington Heights Library, 500 N. Dunton, Arlington Heights; (the reason for our meeting change of date)
October 21-22, Friday and Saturday	All weekend	Lake Michigan LWV Annual Meeting, Hilton Oak Lawn, Oak Lawn near I-294
October 25, Tuesday	11:30 AM	LWVCC Lunch & Learn at De Paul Club, De Paul University Center, 11th floor, 1 E. Jackson, Chicago, Reservation due by October 18th.
October 25, Tuesday	1 PM	(Note Date Change) LWVAH Board Meeting, Ilene Strauss', 638 Sycamore, Buffalo Grove,
Oct 25-27 / Nov 8-10	Daily	Illinois Legislature Veto Session
October 27, Thursday	7 PM Doors Open 7:30 PM Program	<b>Notice Date Change:</b> Education Study Panel: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, Arlington Heights Historical Society 110 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights.
October 29, Saturday	9:30 AM- Noon	Leadership Rap, LWVIL, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 525, Chicago. Reservations required. Free 312-929-5935, ext 37, mormiston@lwvil.org
November 17, Thursday	7 PM Doors Open 7:30 PM Program	Education Consensus Meeting: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, Arlington Heights Historical Society 110 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights

## Message from Our LWVUS President



In the early days of the League, President Belle Sherwin described the League as "a university without walls...whose members enter to learn and remain to shape the curriculum."

A summer intern at the LWVUS recounted her experience working on elections and redistricting, and concluded that "working at the League of Women Voters can be a life changing experience if you go into it with a passion for public advocacy and a desire to learn."

We come to the League for many different reasons, but as I have had the privilege to travel the country and meet our members, my own experience with the League is constantly reinforced. Just like our intern, I have gotten out of the League what I put into it and so much more. We can all be proud that we are strong advocates for our communities as well as an invaluable resource for each other.

Elizabeth McNamara, President, LWVUS

### **"A desire to learn" and "advocates for our communities"**

This is a timely reminder as we continue our study of the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. Our chats have ended and this month members will participate in a Panel of Educators. In November our League will join Leagues across America to take a consensus of the issues surrounding pre-K programs, Funding and Equity, and Common Core Standards and Assessments.

**Why take on this work?** Because we realize that our children's education is the key to future success in the current global economy. Leaguers want to become knowledgeable about proposals for education reform -- and then advocate for measures that will help ensure the development of our children and the future economic health of our communities and our country.

Cathy Duoba, Program Chair

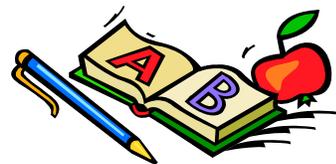
### **LWVAH-MP-BG BOARD MEMBERS 2011-2012**

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Education Study Program  
Role of Federal Government in Public Education  
PANEL OF EDUCATORS  
The FOURTH Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>



Having completed the “chats” with informal discussion of background material on the issues, now it’s time to apply this information to the Real World. We have called on some new contacts and some old friends from our past program on “No Child” to create a panel of professionals working in our local school districts. The Panel of Educators will include:

**Dr. Steve Cordogan, Director of Research & Evaluation, District 214**  
**Dr. Dale Truding, Asst. Superintendent for Student Learning, AHS District 25**  
**Dr. Nancy Wagner, Asst. Superintendent of Instruction, CCS District 59**  
**A representative of the Teachers Association**

Since hands-on experience is the best preparation, who is better equipped than educators to inform us about:

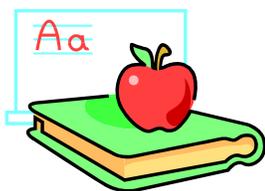
- What are the current problems and what’s working well?
- What are the proposals for change?
- What well-meaning proposals might have unintended consequences?
- What have been the effects of the current role of the federal government?

The consensus questions will be mailed out in mid-October. The questions revolve around Funding and Equity and the Common Core Standards. Among the many questions involved, one of the most difficult may be (as the LWVUS puts it): “There is a logical progression from standards to assessments based on these standards, to curriculum aligned with the standards and tests. How much of a role do we think the federal government should have in this continuum?”

**Join us Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the Arlington Heights Historical Society  
to gather information and question the panelists.  
BRING A FRIEND!**

**Everyone has a stake in the quality of our education system and the future of America.**

Be sure to read the background study papers on Funding and Equity and Common Core Standards, available at our website, [www.lwvah.org](http://www.lwvah.org). The LWV stands for “informed participation”. We owe it to our children and our country to take seriously the challenge of creating the best possible education system to compete in the global economy.



### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Board decided to delay our program one week because of the value of this program:

**District 25 Community Conversations**  
**Topic: Common Core Standards**

Presented by: Dr. Sarah Jerome, Superintendent, and  
Dr. Dale Truding, Asst. Superintendent for Student  
Learning, Arlington Heights School District 25

**October 20, 2011: 10:00 a.m. to Noon and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Arlington Heights Memorial Library, Hendrickson Room, 500 N. Dunton Ave., Arlington Heights

**WE URGE MEMBERS TO ATTEND**

**Education Study Program**  
**“Education Funding: Equity and Educational Opportunity”**  
**(An opportunity to learn from an old friend and data-guru)**

**Speaker: Ralph Matire**  
**Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability**  
**and appointee to the US Department of Education Equity and Excellence Commission**

**Thursday, October 19, 7:30 PM**

**Downers Grove Fire Department Administration Building,**  
**Corner of Main and 55th Streets**

**Car pools available, call Cathy Duoba, 847-437-6956**

## HOLIDAY GIFT BUYING TIP

By Judith O. Royal

I was not a proponent of gift cards. I thought, “Why should I give the merchant my money before I buy something?” Then our League started selling gift cards through Manna Express to raise funds. At first I bought a few cards just to support our League. I bought gift cards for those stores I shop at routinely. Then I expanded and bought cards for a few local restaurants like Subway and Panera. Suddenly I found these cards very handy when I wanted something to send with a thank you or birthday card. Now I try to always have a few extra gift cards on hand for just such occasions. With November birthdays and the holidays coming I want to have cards on hand for gifts, for the restaurant at which we celebrate, and for my routine shopping. I like knowing that I am supporting our League at the same time!

I hope you will review the gift card brochure in this bulletin and order cards for your own shopping and for gifts. You get the full value of what you paid for the card, while the League makes a small percent. If you have questions contact Nancy Duel at 847-259-3793 or [nduel@aol.com](mailto:nduel@aol.com).

## Privatization Study

Consider what is happening in your local community or state with regard to transferring some government services to the private sector. Are you aware of the policy issues associated with such a transfer?

Papers written by the Privatization Study Committee will be posted on the LWVUS website in the coming weeks. As a reminder, the scope of this study is “to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.” The study papers will offer some guidelines for best practices that should be considered in these efforts, whether they affect your public libraries, your public schools or your state’s highway system.

**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.**



## Update on "Smog" News in September League Links

### **LWVUS Is Concerned about the Delay of Pollution Regulation**

The League and coalition groups sent a letter to the White House expressing deep concern that the Environmental Protection Agency will not meet its commitment to propose long overdue Clean Air Act standards limiting dangerous carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. They also asked the President to reaffirm the administration's commitment to issue strong standards that significantly reduce carbon emissions from both new and existing power plants as the Clean Air Act requires.

More points made in the letter:

*"This marks the second delay in fulfilling your administration's promise, made in settlement of litigation and in representations to the Supreme Court, to address power plants' enormous contribution to the air pollution that drives climate change..."*

*"Limiting the carbon pollution from power plants will protect our children's health, our coastlines, rivers, forests, wildlife, and our economy. Moving forward to modernize our aging energy infrastructure will protect our health and well-being, save families and small businesses money through more efficient generation and use of electricity, and contribute to our economic recovery and create thousands of jobs*

*"your administration assured the Supreme Court that EPA was committed to issue them on a specific schedule. On the strength of those assurances, in June the Court unanimously reaffirmed that it is EPA's job to protect Americans from climate-changing pollution. EPA, however, has acknowledged that the promised schedule will not be met."*

## Natural Gas Industry Ads...Really?

By Cathy Duoba

Natural gas industry ads state their fracing wells are entirely encased and cannot pollute. However, Energy Secretary Chu's Shale Gas Subcommittee 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 in a well that exhibits damage or on the nature of the intervention." If the wells cannot leak, why is this committee, composed mostly of industry-connected members, concerned about having "common leakage criteria"?

Even if this claim is true, most documented problems are caused by other parts of the fracing process, especially the well-pump compressors and waste-water storage and disposal.

### **Some of the documented problems surrounding fracing listed by the NRDC:**

Murrysville, Pennsylvania, Air sampling at the compressor station at a fracing site detected 16 chemical compounds, including benzene, styrene, toluene, xylene, hexane, heptane, acetone, acrolein, propane, carbon tetrachloride and chloromethane.

Air sampling in Colorado and New Mexico has found high levels of dangerous air pollutants, including hydrogen sulfide, near natural gas production sites. OSHA has issued citations and the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission searched its records and found that one company reported encounters with hydrogen sulfide in the vast majority of its wells in western Colorado -- 313 times in 353 wells.

The state of Pennsylvania asked natural gas operators to *voluntarily* stop sending fracing waste to wastewater treatment plants, because these plants weren't adequately equipped to treat the toxic ingredients and the waste was discharged into rivers that are sources of drinking water. It seems that not all natural gas operators in Pennsylvania abided by this request, and "a significant amount of the waste was still taken to plants not designed to treat it," so now the state is asking the operators to certify by Monday, Aug. 29, that they will not take wastewater to these facilities.

Drilling mud has been spilled four times into Laurel Lake Creek during drilling of a natural gas pipeline. Laurel Lake Creek is a watershed determined to have "exceptional value" because they contain pristine streams that deserve extra protections from environmental harm. It took four spills before the state of Pennsylvania shut down this operation.



## Past Actions, Present Gains

### The Voting Rights Act and Voter Suppression Laws

For our Martin Luther King program a few years ago, the topic was the extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and subsequently members took action to support the law's extension. Who could anticipate then how crucial this law would become in the fight against the onslaught of Voter Suppression actions taken this past year? Or how proud we could be of the efforts League took on this issue? Of course, this law was applied only to the protection of minority voting rights in those states with a past history of overt discrimination. In other states, including those whose actions, both then and now, are more covert, other tools to fight current voter suppression must be found. Still, the LWVUS September newsletter referred us to the following article from the ACLU website which summarizes the myriad of suppression actions taken, the federal court decision, and how, hopefully, it will be applied by the U.S. Justice Department.

#### [Federal Court Upholds Constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act](#)

By Katie O'Connor, Voting Rights Project, ACLU

Sept 21, 2011

Today a federal judge upheld the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires states with a history of voter suppression to seek approval before implementing changes to their voting laws. Shelby County, Alabama, argued that the law exceeded Congress's authority to enforce the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments[and] the ACLU intervened.

The court rightfully noted that the past 25 years have provided ample evidence of discrimination against minority voters. The judge cited a 1991 incident in which Mississippi state legislators opposed a plan that would strengthen minority voting rights, referring to the plan as the "black plan" and privately as "the n-plan." The court also cited an incident where the chairman of the Georgia House Reapportionment Committee told his colleagues, "The Justice Department is trying to make us draw nigger districts and I don't want to draw nigger districts." The court ultimately concluded that the reauthorization of Section 5 was a "congruent and proportional remedy" to the discriminatory behavior that filled the more than 15,000 pages of legislative history.

In fact, the need for Section 5 is perhaps greater now than it has been in decades. This year, we saw a flood of discriminatory voter suppression efforts across the country. Over 30 states considered stricter voter ID laws. Five states passed laws requiring photo identification of every voter for every election, without exception, joining Georgia and Indiana. But it didn't stop at voter ID. Seven states shortened early voting periods. Two state legislatures voted to repeal Election Day registration laws (fortunately, one of those states' governors, Brian Schweitzer of Montana, vetoed the legislation). Florida passed legislation making it much more difficult for third-party organizations to register voters [*forcing the Florida state LWV to suspend all their voter registration efforts*]. Three additional states will now require proof of citizenship in order to register to vote. All of these measures have been shown to disproportionately affect minorities, students, the elderly and the disabled.

Because of today's decision, Florida will have to prove that its third-party registration law is not discriminatory. Texas and South Carolina will have to show that their voter ID laws are not discriminatory. Alabama will have to confirm that its proof-of-citizenship requirement for voter registration does not negatively affect minorities. And many states will have to demonstrate that their redistricting plans do not abridge the right of racial or language minorities to vote. Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act rightfully made it the state's burden to prove that a law does not suppress minority votes. The necessity of Section 5 is reaffirmed by the surge of voter suppression laws we are now seeing nationwide. Hopefully, we will soon be reminded of the effectiveness of the law.



**TO ALL MEMBERS OF LEAGUES IN COOK COUNTY AND THEIR FRIENDS:**

*Please make your reservations and forward this message to your friends.*

**LUNCH & LEARN WITH**

**The League of Women Voters of Cook County**

*a series of fundraising luncheons featuring speakers  
talking about different aspects of Cook County government*

**Our next speaker:**

**Cook County Forest Preserve District  
General Superintendent Arnold Randall**

**Tuesday, October 25, 11:30 am to 1 pm  
DePaul Club, DePaul University Center, 11th floor**

1 E. Jackson (corner of State Street and Jackson), Chicago  
(walk through the Barnes & Noble store to reach the elevators to the 11th floor)

**cost: \$30 per person** (includes boxed lunch and hot and cold drinks)

*Proceeds benefit The League of Women Voters of Cook County*

**Please complete the reservation form below, and mail it with your check to the address listed.**

**Reservations are due by October 18.**

LWVCC Oct. 25 Lunch & Learn with the League

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

League (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select your sandwich choice** (if more than one person for this reservation, please identify how many of each below and identify who gets which on other side):

\_\_\_ chicken salad \_\_\_ turkey \_\_\_ vegetarian

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_ reservations @ \$30 each) made out to The League of Women Voters of Cook County

**Please mail this completed form and check to**

**Donna Moore c/o League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 801, Flossmoor, IL 60422**

**Questions? Call Donna at 708-798-8867**



### **House Passes Sweeping Anti-Clean Air TRAIN Act**

LWVUS and other leading environmental groups urged the Senate to reject the TRAIN (Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation) Act and commended the White House veto threat.

**League Urges Lobbying Disclosure for Members of Deficit Reduction Committee** The League and coalition partners sent a letter to members of the Committee on Deficit Reduction. Urging them to take steps immediately to voluntarily disclose the efforts of outside interests to lobby them on matters related to the business of the committee.

### **Health Care: Affordable Care Act**

The LWV of Tennessee and the LWVUS submitted comments to the Department of Health and Human Services on the Proposed Rule on the Affordable Care Act: Establishment of Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans. The comments support efforts to improve choice of affordable health insurance through the Insurance Exchanges and to provide a seamless application and enrollment process, but raise concerns about the proposed rule allowing states too much flexibility in implementing an Exchange.

### **Redistricting: Leagues Lead Fair Redistricting Battle Nationwide**

State Leagues continue to take the lead on advocating for fair redistricting in state capitals across the country. Some more examples:

#### **Justice Department Aligns with League on TX Redistricting**

Following submission of an LWVUS/LWVTX comment letter urging the Department of Justice to object to Texas's congressional redistricting plan, the Department indicated that it believes the plan fails to comply with requirements set forth by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. LWVUS and LWV of Texas objected on the grounds that it would disenfranchise minority voters and is in clear violation of the landmark Voting Rights Act. A significant number of individuals and civil rights, civic, and community organizations including the League testified repeatedly that the map was clearly designed to benefit lawmakers' partisan interests, while egregiously shortchanging minority voters and fracturing close-knit communities of interest. The League in Texas and other key states will continue to stand up for the rights of minority voters as the redistricting process wraps up across the country.

#### **Pennsylvania League Members Weigh In**

League leaders in Allentown and Pittsburgh recently provided testimony at official redistricting hearings. They urged the state's Legislative Reapportionment Commission to adopt a fair and transparent process that results in districts that preserve the cores of existing communities, avoid diluting the voting strength of minority voters, and establish improved partisan balance across the Commonwealth.

**PLEASE VISIT LWVIL WEBSITE  
LOCAL LEAGUE EVENTS:  
[http://www.lwvil.org/League\\_event](http://www.lwvil.org/League_event)**

## 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.

## GIFT CARD ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to League of Women Voters*

Send to: Nancy Duel, 115 N Windsor Drive  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Any Questions: Contact Nancy Duel 847-259-3793  
or e-mail at [nduel@aol.com](mailto:nduel@aol.com)

## GIFT CARD FUND RAISER LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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, and 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**

<b>Apparel &amp; Accessories</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Home Decor</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>
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			<b>Home Improvement</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Books</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>	Ace Hardware \$25	4		
Barnes and Noble \$10	9			Home Depot \$25	4		
Barnes and Noble \$25	9			Lowes \$25	4		
<b>Department Stores</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>	Menards \$25	3		
Carson Pirie Scott \$25	9			<b>Restaurants &amp; Fast Food</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>
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		
<b>Electronics and Office</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>	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			<b>Specialty Retailer</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Entertainment</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>	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		
<b>Gasoline</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>	Petsmart \$25	4		
Marathon \$25	3			<b>Sporting Goods</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>
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			<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>
Speedway \$100	4			Amazon.com \$100	4		
<b>Groceries</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Total</b>	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			<b>Other Requests</b>			
Mariano's \$100	4						
Sara Lee \$10	13			<b>TOTAL DUE</b>			<b>\$</b>



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Manager

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## **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

### **Education Study Events on Oct. 20 & 27!**

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