



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/>

April 2012

Volume 57, Issue 9

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, April 19	7 PM doors open; 7:30 PM meeting	Consensus Meeting on Privatization Study. Arlington Heights Historical Society, 110 West Fremont, Arlington Heights, 60004.
Sunday, April 22		Earth Day
Friday, April 27		National Arbor Day
Tuesday, April 24	7 PM	Board meeting at Pat Lindner's. Members invited.
Monday, April 30	7:30 – 8:30 PM	Campaign Moving Forward PS Housing in AH for Those Overcoming Mental Illness. At St. John United Church of Christ, 308 N. Evergreen Ave., Arlington Heights, 60004.
Monday, May 7	9:30 AM – 1 PM	Annual Meeting & Luncheon of LWV of Cook County with keynote speaker Toni Preckwinkle, CC Board President. At University Center, 525 S. State St., Chicago 60605. Details to be announced at www.cookcounty.il.lwvnet.org
Thursday, May 17	6:30 PM potluck starts; 7:30 meeting	Annual Meeting – Potluck Salad Supper Arlington Heights Historical Society, 110 West Fremont, 60004.
Tuesday, May 22	7 PM	New Board meets. At Pat Lindner's.
June 8-12		LWVUS Convention in Washington, D.C. "Power the Vote: Imagine, Commit, Act." Visit www.lwvus.org
August		LWV AH-MP-BG Picnic Details to be announced.

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.





The LWVUS President's Message
 Sent March 8
 International Women's Day

This is International Women's Day. Throughout our history, the League has worked in the global arena as well as the domestic, focusing much of our work on the status of women. It has been my privilege over the last couple of days to join my fellow **Sisters on the Planet** here in Washington for Oxfam America's Sisters on the Planet International Women's Day Summit. Oxfam America is supporting Feed the Future, an innovative initiative that supports agriculture and promotes food security by supporting smallholder farmers, especially women, in the developing world.

In any discussion of food security, domestic behavior can't be ignored, and I had the opportunity to participate in a small group discussion aimed at changing local behavior with respect to buying local and wasting less. Since the ultimate goal was to encourage grassroots action to influence behavior on Capitol Hill, the issue of money in politics [**Disclose Act**] soon entered the conversation. A member of our group suddenly asked whether there was any member of the League of Women Voters in the room. **We need the League, she said**, because this is what the League does! Such unexpected moments are a testament to our history and our hard work, and I was proud to identify not only myself, but another League member in the group.

Also, today we have another testament to that history and hard work. **The League of Women Voters was the only nongovernmental organization chosen** to partner on a project that will organize 10 meetings in eight different countries in the Middle East and North Africa over the next 10 months, culminating in the **Ninth Forum for the Future of North Africa, Levant and Gulf Countries** in December. It is a great honor to receive such an assignment and we look forward to an exciting year on both the global and domestic front.

Over the past week, we have seen that our work is never done. While we were busy *Powering the Vote*, we were reminded that **treating women with respect and empowering women to control their lives** requires constant vigilances. Issues that we believed had been laid to rest decades ago were once again front and center in the Presidential election. On this International Women's Day we remember that we are all Sisters – and Brothers – on the Planet playing key roles in supporting our families and our communities, our nation and our world!

In League, Elisabeth McNamara



LWVAH BOARD MEMBERS 2011- 2012

<u>Position/Portfolio</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
President & Vice-Pres,	VACANT		
Secretary	Dawn Walter	630-802-7017	dawnwalter25@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Nancy Duel	847-259-3793	nduel@aol.com
Membership	Pat Lindner	847-259-2711	
Program	Cathy Duoba	847-437-6956	cduoba@aol.com
Voter Service	Judith Royal	847-259-5838	cjroyal@comcast.net
	Tabitha Long	847-222-9560	tabithahlong@gmail.com

OFF-BOARD LEADERS

Finance, Phonathon	VACANT		
Frontier Days	Rosemary Krizan	847-398-7812	RAK631@Gmail.com
Nominating Committee Chair	Susan Fuller	847-398-2281	
Budget Committee Chair	Robin LaBedz	847-392-6195	rplabedz@sbcglobal.net
By-Laws Committee Chair	Jean Vanderlinde	847-537-6346	hjvdl@mc.net
Technology Geek	Connie Weissman	847-870-7719	Connie_Weissman@rush.edu

Consensus Meeting On the Privatization Study Thursday, April 19, 7 PM



Ivory Tower or Manning the Barricades??
Which Is Your Preference??

Members seemed to enjoy batting around ideas, comments, and questions at the chats...and we all learned a lot: e.g. we can thank Milton Friedman for starting the ideas that have grown into a debate over whether government should be allowed to be in “unfair competition” with the private market!?! Brian Imus of Illinois PIRG, our speaker last month, took the concepts and ideas we had read about in the study papers and showed us how they can play out in the real world of politics and tight budgets, unless the public demands rules about transparency, oversight, and accountability.

**But Knowledge without Action is the Ivory Tower
A Study without reaching a Position for Action is pretty useless
AND CONSENSUS IS HOW LEAGUE GETS TO ACTION POSITIONS**

We need every member who has come to a chat or studied the papers on their own to come bring their thoughts and conclusions to reach the best member consensus. We need YOUR participation.

Join us in consensus Thursday, April 19, at the Arlington Heights Historical Society.



Campaign for PS Housing at Boeger Moves Forward

By Judith Royal

Ten Leaguers plus 50 other supporters of Boeger Place kicked off the Good Neighbors Campaign on March 27. League and Arlington Heights residents want to urge the Village Board to allow this *permanent supportive housing* (PSH) for people overcoming mental illness to be built on Boeger Drive. Our Leaguers took petitions and committed to writing 20 letters to two Village Trustees and to the Daily Herald editorial page.

Join the campaign. Come on **Monday, April 30, from 7:30 to 8:30 PM at St. John United Church of Christ, 308 N. Evergreen, Arlington Heights 60004**. Please talk to Judith Royal and Cathy Duoba about how you can help.

People who are overcoming mental illness need housing with supportive services now. They tell you earnestly how having their own space to call home is key to their total recovery.

In 2010 our League became aware of the lack of supportive housing in our community, when the Task Force introduced the plan for proposed PSH on Boeger Drive. Subsequently the Village Board voted against it—at the urging of opponents, many from Buffalo Grove—because too many variances were requested and required for the project to qualify for government funds. <http://housingtaskforce.org>

Later when the Village did not respond to The Task Force’s request for further discussion, John Marshall Law School filed a lawsuit for a person overcoming mental illness and the developer. Attorneys are convinced by recent court decisions that the Village is in violation of fair housing laws. To continue with the lawsuit will delay the building of this PSH and will cost the Village legal fees and likely a severe penalty by the court.

Our Annual Meeting is Thursday, May 17

Reminder:

Dues are payable at this meeting.

Make your check for \$75 payable to “League of Women Voters”



Finance Report

By Pat Lindner

The League is no longer participating in the Barnes & Noble gift-wrapping fund raising project. It did not produce enough visibility or money for all the time spent. For those same reasons, our Board also decided not to participate in the LWVIL Phonathon. Our Manna gift cards can produce enough money to make up for both of the above -- especially if more people participate more frequently. In addition, we are saving money through the generous offer of the Horner Group to provide the printing and mailing of our *League Links*. The advertiser program yielded eight checks. Suggestions for additional ad prospects are welcomed!



Members Needed for Trip to Washington, DC LWVUS Convention June 8 to 12

As MSNBC's Chris Matthews keeps saying:
**"Come visit the buildings and museums of Washington, DC,
you already paid for it!"**

Consider attending! Check it out on the LWVUS website. lwv.org. This is a great opportunity to learn new solutions for old problems and connect with others as thoroughly "geeky" as you are about making government work for The People. You can hear interesting speakers like John Zogby, Trevor Potter (Stephen Colbert's lawyer), Eleanor Clift, and Mickey Edwards, or laugh at the "Capitol Steps" comedy review. Convention never fails to be time and money well-spent on confidence and growth for your mind and leadership development for your League.

AND, it's all happening in Washington DC

Happy Birthday, Affordable Care Act

March 23 was the second anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) so it seems appropriate that we step back and take stock of the law and its impact. After all, the League played no small part in its historic passage!

- Medicare participants have annual checkups and mammograms covered at no cost to them.
- Children are no longer denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions.
- Insurance companies can no longer impose lifetime limits on coverage.
- Young adults can stay on their parents' health plans as dependents until age 26.
- The prescription drug coverage gap, the infamous Medicare "Donut Hole," is gradually being phased out.



To date, for millions of Americans, this historic law has made a difference in their health and in their lives. Let's celebrate and take note of advances that have already taken place and those to come in the next few years.

There are challenges ahead and we must plan accordingly. On Monday, March 26, the U.S. Supreme Court began hearing three days of oral arguments on various legal challenges to the ACA. In addition, there are congressional attempts to destructively amend the ACA and others to defund the law.



Save the Dates:

Monday, May 7, from 9:30 to 1:00, University Center, Chicago
Annual Meeting of the Cook County League
with featured speaker **Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle.**
and

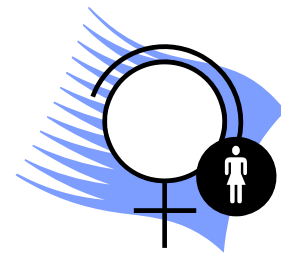
Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at Noon: **2012 State of the State**
Keynote Speaker: **Sheila Simon, Lt. Gov. of Illinois**

Check out her website <http://www2.illinois.gov/ltgov/Pages/default.aspx>
where you can find information on the issues about which she cares and on which she is working

ADVOCACY

"Women are not Livestock,"

Time for Action: Reproductive Health Care



Contact Your State Representative to **VOTE NO** on **BOTH HB 4085 Ultrasound Mandate AND HB 4117 Regulation of Health Centers Providing Abortion Care**

Rep. Harris: RepHarris@yahoo.com or 224-635-2010

Rep. Mathias: repmathias@hotmail.com or 847-222-0061

IL HB 4117 and II HB 4085 were not assigned to the Health Committee; instead the more conservative members of the Agriculture Committee will debate this issue regarding women's health! As one female legislator asked, "We are talking about women here, not cows and pigs, right?"

Stand up for Women's Rights

On March 8, in a 51-48 vote, the U.S. Senate rejected an amendment by Senators Blunt and Rubio to block contraceptive services and discriminate against women. This amendment would have limited access to contraceptive services for women based on an employer or insurance plan having "religious or moral objections." You helped defeat the Blunt-Rubio amendment, but this vote was just the first battle in the fight over contraception. We need to keep the pressure up by continuing to let Senators know where we stand.

League asks all members to thank those who stood with us in this important issue.

Sen. Durbin voted Yes; Sen. Kirk was absent due to illness.

Sen. Durbin can be contacted at http://participate.lwv.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=5597

In honor of Sunshine Week this March

The League joined other watchdog groups asking presidential candidates and President Obama to reveal more details about presidential campaign fundraisers who bundle contributions in amounts greatly exceeding what they would be permitted to contribute on their own. Demanding more transparency also comes during an election year in which candidates, party committees and outside groups are expected to spend unprecedented amounts to influence more than the outcome.

League Applauds Dept of Justice and Court Actions Protecting Voter Rights in Texas and Wisconsin

LWVUS March 13, 2012

Washington, DC (March 13, 2012) - "After many months of assault on voting rights in states around the country, the League lauds two decisions that will protect all eligible voters in Wisconsin and Texas. These decisions are important statements about efforts that could impact eligible voters in many other states," stated President McNamara.



A decision was announced yesterday in **a case brought by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin** in the Dane County 9th Circuit Court in Wisconsin that granted a permanent injunction against implementation of the nation's most restrictive voter photo ID law. Judge Richard Niess wrote: "The defendants' argument that the fundamental right to vote must yield to legislative fiat turns our constitutional scheme of democratic government squarely on its head."

"Yesterday was also a landmark day because the Department of Justice (DOJ) denied Texas preclearance of their voter photo ID law," said MacNamara. "The statistics provided by the state of Texas unequivocally establish the discriminatory impact of the law," added MacNamara. "The DOJ was left no option except to strike down the law," said Karen Nicholson, President of the League of Women Voters of Texas. **LWV of Texas was instrumental in urging the DOJ to deny preclearance of this law.**

The DOJ also pointed to the cost of underlying documentation needed to get the identification and lack of access to state facilities where voters can get their IDs. "Now is not the time for this country to return to the days of poll taxes limiting access to the polling booth for eligible voters," said LWVUS President MacNamara. "The DOJ acted in the best interest of the nation in denying preclearance of the law."

News from LWV Cook County

Proposal to Eliminate the Elected Recorder of Deeds Position: Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey (12th Dist.) is seeking Board approval to place a referendum on the November ballot asking voters in Cook County whether they would like to eliminate the elected position of Recorder of Deeds and transfer the duties of that office to the Cook County Clerk. The League's Budget and Structure Interest Group is doing a quick study of the pros and cons, and will be sharing the information gleaned.

Meetings with County Officials on Transparency: Members of the Cook County League Board have been meeting with officials from the President's and the Clerk's offices to discuss ways to improve transparency at County Board meetings and on the County and Clerk's web sites. Did you know that Cook County has Channel 900 on Comcast and broadcasts videos of the latest County Board and Forest Preserves Board meetings? The League is lobbying to have the schedule of broadcasts posted on the County's web site (www.cookcountygov.com). The League is also recommending that a category be added to the web site to provide information and links to everything having to do with Board proceedings. Currently, people have to know to check the Clerk's web site for Board meeting dates, agendas, and minutes; and the Secretary to the Board's web site for information pertaining to Board Committee meetings.

Information from ISSUES BRIEFING

Missed the LWVIL Issues Briefing last January – or can't read your notes? Just go to www.lwvil.org for a wealth of information. Check **Issues Briefing 2012** tab under the Events and News menu to access handouts from the presenters. Also, read the latest updates from the Issues Specialists by going to the Issues menu.

How did legislators across the country celebrate?



International Women's Day
Connecting girls. inspiring futures

On International Women's Day, the House Republican leadership postponed, but did not cancel, a hearing on the Blunt-Rubio Amendment to the Transportation bill, which would allow employers to opt out of health care coverage for contraception in the employee's health insurance – based on the employer's, not the employee's, moral convictions. Rank-and-file House Republicans are still demanding a vote.

- **On International Women's Day, Texas** Gov. Perry signed into law a bill that denied funding to Planned Parenthood, which provided health care services to 40,000 women. As a result, Texas lost \$35 million in federal Title X funding for the state's "Texas Women's Health Program." The "Texas Women's Health Program" providers had given cancer screenings, PAP smears, hormone patches, birth control, and other basic services to 130,000 low-income women. The loss of federal funding has shut down the whole program.
- The **Oklahoma** State Senate approved a bill which requires abortion providers to make available to women the opportunity to hear any fetal heartbeat that can be heard. Originally, the bill required women to listen to the heartbeat. The usual excuse for this bill was offered by its sponsor: "Women should be fully informed and understand the repercussions of their actions. A heartbeat is life."
- The **Georgia** Senate passed two restrictive women's health care bills: one would prevent state employees' health care plans from covering abortion, and the other exempts religious health care providers from having to cover birth control.
- Even in Wilmington, **Delaware**, by an 8 to 4 vote, the council recognized the "personhood" of semen, saying that "each 'egg person' and each 'sperm person' should be deemed equal in the eyes of the government."
- **Wisconsin** Senator Grothman said that unplanned pregnancies are a 'woman's choice.' During an interview on Fox News, the senator continued to harangue women by claiming that they 'choose' to have children out-of-wedlock and that our culture appears to 'encourage such a lifestyle.'
- And newspaper headlines told us, that, late the day before, **Virginia** Governor McDonald had signed the bill requiring a mandatory ultrasound be performed on a woman seeking her constitutional right to an abortion.

BUT: On International Women's Day, all 12 Democratic women in the Senate sent a letter to the House Speaker asking him not to bring up for a vote the controversial Blunt-Rubio Amendment allowing employers to opt out of extending health care coverage for contraception. And in honor of **the Day**, about a half-dozen female and one male state legislators from various states, including IL Rep. Kelly Cassidy, introduced bills placing restrictions on access to vasectomies, Viagra, etc. for men.

Stand Your Ground (SYG) Laws: Why They Emerged and How They Spread

Americans would like to believe that we have moved beyond the times of white-hooded vigilantes roaming the countryside acting as judge, jury, and executioner. It appears that is not the case. What has happened?

From MSNBC's "UP with Chris Hayes", March 24, 2012, edited by Cathy Duoba

After the 2000 election, the Democrat legislators gave up on gun control; people believed Gore lost his home state (TN) due to his gun control stance. Anti gun control laws were passed without a fight. As a result, the National Rifle Association (NRA), needing to justify its continuing relevance and fund-raising, began to push for more extreme laws like guns-on-campus and Stand Your Ground (SYG) laws.

In 2005, Ms. Marion Hammer, former NRA President, was then the NRA lobbyist who conceived of and wrote the Florida SYG law. The bill passed despite the opposition of law enforcement that it would put the public at greater risk and the warnings of critics that it would lead to racially-motivated killings. Ms. Hammer stood at the right side of then Gov. Jeb Bush as he signed it into law that same year. Justifiable homicides tripled from 33 in 2006 to 102 in 2007, 98 in 2008, and 105 in 2009 (the last year with complete figures published).

The NRA pitched the Florida SYG bill to the closed-door meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) in Texas in 2005, where the ALEC Committee on Criminal Justice unanimously approved this bill as their "model template" bill to push across the country. Presently 24 states are reported to have a Stand Your Ground law, though Florida's remains the most restrictive.

Marion Hammer on HDNET/"Dan Rather Reports", February 3, 2009

"Through time in this country, what I like to call Bleeding Heart Criminal Coddlers want you to give a criminal an even break so that when you're attacked, you're supposed to turn around and run rather than standing your ground and protecting yourself and your family and your property."

ALEC describes SYG as self-defense, "Castle Doctrine" laws. This is false. There are long-standing laws already guaranteeing the right of self-defense, and "your home is your castle and you can defend it" was already available both as wide-spread law and an ancient English common-law principle. SYG is NOT about "defending your castle." SYG laws redefine your castle as "**any place you have a legal right to be.**"

This expansion of the castle doctrine "justifies vigilante justice out on the streets," said Lisa Graves, Executive Director of the Center for Media and Democracy. She has tracked these laws, their spread across the country, and the work of ALEC. Ms Graves states SYG is "Shoot first. It is no longer 'you said, he said', but you said and the other guy is dead and cannot counter your claim of self-defense."

The Sanford police are being criticized for not questioning the suspect and taking a statement to tie down Mr. Zimmerman's story at the outset. However Professor Michael Mannheimer, posting on Prawfslawg.blogs.com critiquing the Florida SYG law notes that the law...*provides that a person who uses deadly force in self-defense "is immune from criminal prosecution."* This odd provision means that a person who uses deadly force in self-defense cannot be tried, even though the highly fact-intensive question of whether the person acted in self-defense is usually hashed out at trial. The law thus creates a paradox: the State must make a highly complex factual determination before being permitted to avail itself of the forum necessary to make such a determination.

Author of the book "Cop in the Hood", Peter Moskos likes the spirit of the Stand Your Ground concept, but not the laws as written. Mr. Moskos pointed out that the law goes further than the usual standard that a person may not be arrested without probable cause, "In fact, the police cannot even detain a suspect [for questioning or to take a statement] until probable cause is established". Further, the law makes police "civilly liable" if they make a mistake. From Mr. Moskos again, "The burden is so on police not to question someone, that is how the law is written and that is what the police did. What do you expect when you write this dumb law?"

Moderator Chris Hayes made the point that neither the NRA nor ALEC can pass laws, legislators do. But in the case of part-time state legislators with little staff, lobbying is a legislative "subsidy." When lobbyists approach such a state legislator saying don't worry, we have gathered the data, done all the legal research, and here is a properly-written, ready-made bill on this issue, even non-ALEC-member, non-campaign-contribution-taking legislators are grateful. The public gets what they pay for. And if the public does not want to pay more taxes for proper legislative back-up, research, and staffing, the public gets poorly-written, interest-slanted laws.

The Following Items will be voted on at the May 17 Annual Meeting

PROPOSED LWV BYLAWS CHANGE

The Bylaws Committee of LWVAH met to review the bylaws, as amended in May 2011, in their entirety and to consider any changes.

A proposal was made to amend Article V, Section 3. The word "neither" shall be inserted in the last sentence of the paragraph, so that the sentence reads: ***If neither the Vice-President nor any other Board member is willing to assume the duties of the President, then those duties shall be divided by the Board members among themselves.***

No additional changes are recommended.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Vanderlinde, Chair
Joyce Marks, Judith Royal

PROPOSED ADDITION TO LWV POLITICAL ACTIVITY POLICY

The wording re social media to be added to our POLITICAL ACTIVITY POLICY is suggested by the LWVIL and has already been added to the LWVIL BOARD POLITICAL (NONPARTISAN) ACTIVITY POLICY. Adding it would make our Policy consistent with both LWVIL and LWVUS policies. It would be added at the end of the current list of restrictions.

Social and Other Media. The president, voter service chair, and Board members in high profile League activities shall not indicate their personal political affiliations or candidate preferences at any level of government in the media, including on social networking sites or other public venues that also prominently identify them as members of the LWV Board.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of candidates for election at the Annual Meeting:

OFFICERS:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Josetta McLaughlin (2012-2014)
Nancy Duel (2012-2013)

DIRECTORS:

Cathy Duoba (2012-2013)
Karin Hribar (2012-2013)
Patricia Lindner (2012-2013)
Judith Royal (2012-2013)
Tabitha Long (2012-2014)

Technology Geek (off Board): Connie Weissman

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Chair: Susan Fuller
Member: Rosemary Krizan
Member: Joyce Marks
Board Member: appointed by Board

BYLAWS COMMITTEE:

Chair: Jean Vanderlinde
Member: Joyce Marks
Board Member: appointed by Board

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Chair: Robin LaBedz
Member: Marty Landorf
Treasurer (ex officio)

Respectfully submitted: Susan Fuller, Chair
Nancy Duel, Rosemary Krizan, Joyce Marks

Budget

EXPENSES	Actual 2011- 2012	Proposed 2012- 2013	INCOME	Actual 2011- 2012	Proposed 2012- 2013
A. Operation Costs			A. Membership Fees		
1. Room Rental and AHHS Membership Fee	\$479.00	\$530.00	1. Member Dues (35 @ \$75.00)	\$2,625.00	\$2,625.00
2. Insurance	\$50.00	\$50.00			
Subtotal	\$529.00	\$580.00			
B. Board & Administration			B. Donations		
1. Officers & Board	\$21.09	\$50.00	1. Member Donations	\$255.00	\$400.00
2. Admin. Committee			2. Non member donations	\$60.00	\$60.00
a. Membership	\$4.99	\$50.00	Subtotal	\$315.00	\$460.00
b. Units, Org., & Meetings					
1. Meals	\$150.47	\$200.00	C. Other Sources		
2. Speakers & Guests	\$50.00	\$50.00	1. Meetings (meals)	\$200.00	\$200.00
3. Website	\$200.00	\$200.00	2. Special Projects		
4. Publicity	\$0.00	\$50.00	a. Frontier Days	\$242.00	\$242.00
Subtotal	\$426.55	\$600.00	b. Phonathon	\$207.75	\$0.00
C. Convention, Committee Wkshp.			c. Gift Cards	\$251.80	\$400.00
1. State			d. Gift Wrapping	\$0.00	\$0.00
a. Spend 2011	\$499.20	\$0.00	e. T Shirts	\$75.00	\$50.00
b. Accrual 2013	\$250.00	\$300.00	f. Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$297.50
2. National			3. Accrued from Savings		
a. Spend 2012	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	a. LWV-IL (for 2011)	\$499.20	\$0.00
b. Accrual 2014	\$800.00	\$800.00	b. LWV-US	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
3. Cook County Convention	\$0.00	\$70.00	4. Ed. Fund (for Dues)	\$0.00	\$0.00
4. Annual Meeting booklet	\$60.00	\$60.00	5. Advertisements	\$480.00	\$540.00
5. Issues Briefings	\$150.00	\$150.00	Subtotal	\$1,955.75	\$3,329.50
6. Lake Michigan InterLeague	\$0.00	\$50.00			
Subtotal	\$1,759.20	\$3,030.00			
D. Financial Support					
1. LWV-CC (33 @ \$4.50)	\$135.00	\$148.50			
2. LWV-IL (33 @ \$27.00)	\$810.00	\$891.00			
3. LWV-US (33 @ \$30.00)	\$900.00	\$990.00			
4. Lake Michigan InterLeague	\$25.00	\$25.00			
Subtotal	\$1,870.00	\$2,054.50			
E. Educational Activities					
1. Voter Service	\$0.00	\$100.00			
2. Bulletin Printing and Postage*	\$0.00	\$0.00			
3. Program Meetings	\$0.00	\$50.00			
Subtotal	\$0.00	\$150.00			
*Printing and mailing donated by Horner Group					
TOTAL	\$4,584.75	\$6,414.50	TOTAL	\$4,895.75	\$6,414.50



NEWS FROM LWVUS

See also articles on [LWVUS Convention](#), [Voter Protection](#), [Disclose Act/Sunshine Week](#), and [Reproductive Choice](#)

Elections: Three Steps Forward, One Step Back in Fight Against Voter Suppression League had three big wins in our war against voter suppression laws. One, in a case brought by the LWVWI, the Dane County, 9th Circuit Court announced a permanent injunction against implementation of the nation's most restrictive voter photo ID law. Two, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) denied Texas preclearance of its voter photo ID law. The state has officially appealed this decision, including a challenge of section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, in the U.S. District Court in DC. The LWVTX is planning to intervene in this case. Three, Democrats and Republicans joined together in Maine last month to defeat legislative language that would have required photo ID at the polls. The step back came after a hard fought battle by LWVPA and coalition members. The Pennsylvania legislature passed a voter photo ID bill. The Governor signed it into law immediately. The ACLU has already announced it will challenge the law in court.

Redistricting: FL Court Rejects Redistricting Map, Validates League Concerns Leagues' hard work advocating for better redistricting is paying off. First, the Pennsylvania League celebrated an historic victory: the state Supreme Court ruled in favor of a citizens' appeal to overturn the Redistricting Commission's gerrymandered plans. Further down the Eastern seaboard, the League in North Carolina and Florida continued the fight to demand more representative redistricting plans through state court processes. The Florida League praised their state Supreme Court's rejection of the state Senate plan: the court's 5-2 ruling puts "elected officials on notice they cannot ignore the Constitution and abuse the public trust by drawing districts to favor themselves." The League will monitor the legislature as it goes back to the drawing board.

Elections: Voter Registration Fight Continues In March, the US Justice Department objected to new provisions of Florida's election law that place strict regulations on independent voter registration groups and shorten the early voting period. The objection was filed in a pretrial submission in the preclearance lawsuit that LWVFL is involved in. South Carolina's voter registration bill was sent back to committee this week. The bill would create massive liabilities associated with voter registration drives administered by third-party organizations like the League of Women Voters. By sending the bill back to the Judiciary committee, the House made it less likely that the bill will pass in its current form. The bill is "sleeping" but not yet "dead."

ADVOCACY

League Urges Full Funding of Title X Federal Family Planning Program The LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices over the next few weeks to ask Senators to fully fund the Title X federal family planning program for the \$327 million requested in President Obama's 2013 budget.

League Supports DISCLOSE 2012 in Congress The League is putting its grassroots support behind the DISCLOSE 2012 (H.R. 4010) bill introduced by Rep. Chris Van Hollen this month. Our Lobby Corps is carrying this message to more than 100 House offices, asking Representatives to cosponsor DISCLOSE 2012. This legislation will provide essential new disclosure requirements to cover the hundreds of millions of dollars in secret contributions being injected into federal elections by non-profit groups and other entities. The legislation also ensures that there will be timely disclosure by Super PACs.

League Joins Supreme Court Amicus Brief on Affordable Care Act On March 26, the Supreme Court heard oral argument on legal challenges to the Affordable Care Act. The League of Women Voters joined a broad coalition of healthcare, education and child welfare organizations in filing an *amicus* brief on the Affordable Care Act. The *amicus* brief argues that the challenge to the Affordable Care Act's expansion of Medicaid eligibility jeopardizes a broad range of federal-state programs and antidiscrimination protections that hinge on the U.S. Constitution's "Spending Clause."

League Supports DISCLOSE Act in the Senate The League signed a coalition letter supporting the DISCLOSE Act, introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse on March 21. It works to close loopholes created by the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision as does a similar House bill introduced earlier by Rep. Chris Van Hollen. The legislation focuses solely on disclosure provisions and does not contain special exceptions for any group. It also fixes the problem of untimely disclosure of donors to Super PACs that have surfaced during the 2012 presidential primaries.



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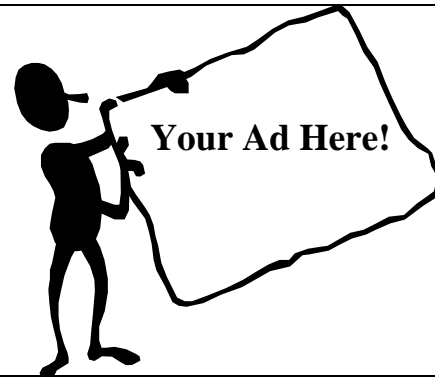
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See you at the April Consensus meeting!

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