



League Links

LWVAH-MP-BG Area

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 2012

Volume 58, Issue 2

Serving our communities since 1955

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, September 6	1-3 PM	Illinois Pension Reform Study Chat; The Problem—Underfunded Illinois Pension Systems. Rena Trevor's. 3905 Redwing Court, Rolling Meadows, 847-255-7352.
Monday, September 10	6-8 PM	Graduated Rate Income Tax Project: Speakers' Training Session Greater Rockford Region, More info at lwvil.org
Tuesday, September 18	6-8 PM	Graduated Rate Income Tax Project: Speakers' Training Session North Shore Region, More info at lwvil.org
Thursday, September 20	Doors open 7 PM Program begins 7:30 PM	Monthly Program: Illinois Pension Reform Study: Potential Changes to the Pension Systems. AH Historical Society, 110 W. Fremont, Arl. Hts.
Tuesday, September 25	7 PM	Board meeting at Nancy Duel's. Members welcome.
Friday-Saturday, September 28-29		Annual Meeting of Lake Michigan LWV (includes IL, IN, MI, WI) Business meeting, speakers, field trip. Tour of steel mill. http://lakemichiganlwv.wordpress.com/
Sunday, October 7	2 - 3:30 PM	9 th Congressional District Candidate Forum for Jan Schakowsky and Timothy Wolfe. Presented by LWVs of Northern Suburbs at Oakton Community College, DesPlaines Campus, 1600 Golf Road, Room 1600.

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 HORNER GROUP LTD

A Message from
The LWVUS President

To Each of Us
A Call to Action & Voter Education

The *News Hour*, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* have all covered the Pennsylvania lawsuit challenging voter photo ID. Like the successful Wisconsin court challenge, the case in Pennsylvania involves the League of Women Voters and focuses on the state constitution. This time, media coverage has been interesting as well because it focuses not just on the need for voters to obtain government issued photo ID, but also on the underlying documents that states are now requiring before issuing that ID. For the 758,000 eligible voters in Pennsylvania who do not have the required ID this is a very big issue, and it is going to be a burden for all voters in every state that has enacted ID requirements.

In my own state of Georgia, we have been showing photo ID at the polls since 2006. Recent changes in state law, however, now require that to get or renew the most common form of ID, citizens must provide a birth certificate, proof of any name change, a social security card and two proofs of residence. Predictably, the state has not been prepared for these changes and so, in addition to the cost of obtaining these documents, applicants must include the cost and the burden of standing in line for hours to get a photo ID.

There is no doubt that these restrictive laws will have the most devastating impact on the elderly, the young, and minority voters, but the time is ripe for reminding our friends and neighbors that sooner or later, these laws will impact everyone. It is important that state courts are recognizing the unnecessary burden these laws impose on voters, but it is **more important that voter photo ID become politically unacceptable**. The League can play a vital role in connecting these dots for the public and putting pressure on elected officials to stop this unnecessary assault on voting rights.

In League together making democracy safe,

Elisabeth



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September Program
Thursday, September 20
The LWVIL Pension Study
continues...



Come to our next meeting, the second “chat”, on this issue.

We need your input! What do YOU think about the government employee pensions issue?

*the underfunding and debt?

*the constitutional issues?

*the benefits?

*the changes/solutions?

Thursday, September 20
Doors open 7:00pm, Program begins 7:30 pm
Arlington Heights Historical Museum, 110 W. Fremont, AH

Also plan to attend the **Consensus Meeting** for this Pension Study:

Thursday evening, October 18
Arlington Heights Historical Museum, 110 W. Fremont, AH

Mailings with some materials to be discussed have been sent to you. Be sure to bring all the materials with you to the chats. Additional important information can be found at the LWVIL website:

www.lwvil.org/IllinoisPensionStudy.asp

Go to the Issues section and click on Studies and Projects where you will find the Illinois Pension Study.

Consensus Questions you will need to consider at the October Consensus meeting are in this bulletin.

Thank Governor Quinn
for Vetoing Major Gambling Expansion



Please thank Governor Quinn for vetoing Senate Bill 1849, the massive gambling expansion bill – for sure, he is hearing from gambling supporters right now! SB 1849 included a mega casino for Chicago, 4 additional casinos, slots at horse racing tracks, and no provision to ban campaign contributions from the gambling industry. Contact the Governor at 312-814-2121 or go to www.2.illinois.gov to send email.

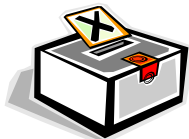
Governor Quinn was under enormous pressure from the gambling industry and Chicago's mayor, so it is good to let him know that we appreciate his veto of SB 1849. For more information or questions, contact Nancy Duel at 847-259-3793 or nduel@aol.com.



REMINDER
Lake Michigan LWV 2012 Annual Meeting
“What can WE do for Lake Michigan?”
September 28-29, 2012 Michigan City, Indiana

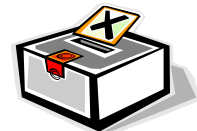
We are looking forward to this opportunity to gather together and learn how to be even more effective in our advocacy and educational activities for Lake Michigan.

Featured Speakers: Alliance for the Great Lakes Speaker, **Jared Teutsch**: “Critical Issues of Lake Michigan and LWV – Critical for Solutions!” and **Jeanette Neagu**: Combined Sewer Overflows/breakout sessions for states; **Judy Beck**, LWV IL and EPA, **Kim Ferraro**, Hoosier Environmental Council, **Eric Neagu**, Environmental Specialist on Calumet Region.



Cook County Clerk Reports Changes to Election Law

Submitted By: Judith O. Royal



Election season is here, and Deputy Voter Registrars need to be aware of legislative changes to election law.

Illinois Early Voting is October 22 to November 3. This change eliminated slow time at the front end and added two days at the crowded back end of Early Voting. It is extended until Saturday before Election Day. Nearly half of all early voters cast ballots in the last four days of Early Voting.

Vote by Mail. For the first time in a Presidential Election, Illinois voters can vote by mail whenever they want—with no excuse at all. Voters can download a mail ballot application online, complete it, sign it and mail it in. The Cook County Clerk’s Office will begin to mail ballots around September 27. Ballots should arrive a week or so after an application is mailed. Registered voters should visit www.cookcountyclerk.com for applications and to track the status of their ballots.

Voter Registration Drives. League members who are trained and sanctioned by the Cook County Clerk’s Office are empowered to take registrations from citizens possessing the appropriate forms of identification.

The Cook County Clerk’s Office reminds us completed registration forms have to be returned within the legal time frame. For all registrations completed before October 2, you have 7 days to return them. For registrations completed between October 2 and October 9, completed forms must be returned within 48 hours. This will ensure every voter’s registration is processed in time for voting. Also, the regular registration deadline for this election is Tuesday, October 9.

Motor Voter or NVRA Form—Mail-in Registration

Citizens who mail in the “Motor Voter” form will likely have to show some ID on Election Day—unless the Clerk’s Office has had time to validate their driver’s licenses beforehand.

Future: Illinois does not have Same Day Registration (i.e., allow citizens to register or update voter registration on Election Day). It is likely election laws will continue to be updated, and antiquated paper registration forms will become a thing of the past. With digital technology jurisdictions will share voter information. This will make change possible and save money with online registration.



Voter qualifications
from www.cookcountyclerk.com



To register to vote, you must be a citizen of the U.S.A; at least 18 years old by Election Day; and a resident of your precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day, November 6, 2012.

Also, you must display two pieces of identification. Neither needs to be a photo ID, but one must include your current address.

Acceptable forms of ID include:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Illinois driver's license | Illinois state ID |
| Employee or student ID | Credit card |
| Social security card | Birth certificate |
| Utility bill in applicant's name | Mail postmarked to the applicant |
| Valid U.S. passport | Public Aid ID card |
| Lease or rental contract | |

In Illinois, you do not declare affiliation with a political party when you register to vote. In primary elections, you may choose to vote a specific political party ballot on Election Day.



Good News, Bad News on Voter Suppression

Source: *Jacksonville Times Union*, August 29, 2012

The Good News

A federal judge announced he would permanently remove the restrictions on third party voter registration groups that have handicapped registration efforts in Florida this year. U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle said he would grant a motion to permanently remove the restrictions once he receives confirmation that a federal appeals court has dismissed the case (the state of Florida has agreed to dismiss their appeal).

The Bad News: Is it too late?

The deadline to register voters before the November election is October 9. You may remember that the restrictions caused the LWV of Florida to cease voter registration drives after a 90 year tradition. League was not the only such group. The following story-telling figures are from the *Times Union*

Florida Voter Registration		
2004	Republican	111,586
	Democrat	158,957
2008	Republican	95,525
	Democrat	259,894
2012	Republican	128,039
	Democrat	11,365

Even More Recent Good News

August 30: A federal district court rejected Texas's restrictive voter ID law, which could have hurt hundreds of thousands of minority voters who lack the required ID. The state of Texas says it will appeal to the Supreme Court. A similar voter ID law in South Carolina may eventually end up in the Supreme Court also.

Back story: Texas originally sought preclearance from the Department of Justice (DOJ) in July 2011. DOJ requested more information from Texas multiple times. However, Texas never provided sufficient information to DOJ, and instead of waiting for DOJ's determination, the state chose [the second path allowed under the Voting Rights Act] to file for preclearance in the D.C. District Court. On March 12, 2012, DOJ announced it would not preclear the voter ID law after determining that Texas failed to demonstrate that the law would not have a discriminatory effect on minority voters.

Source: Brennan Center for Justice website

Court Okays MN Voter Photo ID Amendment for November Ballot

The last week in August, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that a constitutional amendment requiring a photo ID to vote will be on the ballot in November. LWVMN has been working to keep the amendment off the ballot but is now poised to fight to defeat the measure.

Had You Heard?

Included in the Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, there was \$90 billion dedicated to clean energy and energy efficiency? Previous funding had been a few billion per year.

According to Michael Grunwald, author of *The New New Deal*.

The effect of spending this \$90 Billion:

Doubled our renewables which in 2008 were "dead in the water"

Began building the Smart Grid

Built up a domestic battery industry for electric cars

\$25 Billion was invested in energy efficiency producing jobs in the building trades and reductions in carbon emissions, consumer energy bills, and reliance on foreign oil.



It also produced advanced bio-fuel research, the world's largest wind farm, and a dozen of the world's largest solar farms.

Implementing the Affordable Care Act Educating ourselves and other voters



Taking Care of Women

July 31, 2012, by Elisabeth MacNamara

There is more good news coming this week for women because of the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA). Beginning August 1, millions of women around the country will be able to receive free preventive health care benefits. So, what does this mean in the day-to-day lives of women?

In a nutshell: Under the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) new guidelines, women will no longer have to pay for preventive health care. Specifically, health insurance plans will be required to fully cover these vital services: well-woman visits; domestic violence screening and counseling; breastfeeding support, supplies and counseling; FDA-approved contraception methods and counseling; screening for gestational diabetes; human papillomavirus DNA testing for women 30 and older; counseling for sexually-transmitted infections; and HIV screening and counseling.

This means there will be no co-pay, no co-insurance and no deductible charges for these services! Annual health insurance policies that begin on or after August 1, 2012, are required to include these benefits, and any plans and issuing companies that have not received special clearance are also required to cover these services.

This wonderful news comes on the heels of last summer's new insurance market rules under the ACA, which provided for mammograms, cervical cancer screening, prenatal care, colonoscopies, blood pressure checks, and childhood immunizations at no charge, along with ACA recommended Medicare-related free preventive services.

In addition to the ACA's benefits already in effect (including allowed parental coverage for millions of youth 26 and under [and the requirement to spend at least 80% of premiums on healthcare services]), these new benefits for women are a huge step forward in providing quality health care for everyone. Find more information at Healthcare.gov, managed by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

The LWV worked hard to help pass the ACA. We cheered when the House passed ACA and when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in its favor in June. Today, we applaud HRSA's new guidelines for women's preventive health care, a big step forward for women's health!



GRADUATED RATE INCOME TAX (GRIT) PROJECT

LWVIL is partnering with the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability on a multi-year project to establish a graduated rate income tax in Illinois. This project is in accord with the League's Principles as well as the tenets of the Responsible Budget Coalition of which LWVIL is a member.

Speaker's Training Opportunities: Training sessions for League members interested in joining the speakers bureau to educate Illinoisans about GRIT are being scheduled for locations around the state:

- Greater Rockford Region: Sept. 10, 6-8 pm
- The North Shore Region: Sept. 18, 6-8 pm
- Aurora Region: Nov. 1, 6-8 pm
- Bloomington Region: Sept. 25, 6-8 pm
- Peoria Region: Oct. 25, 6-8 pm
- East St. Louis: Nov. 12, 6-8 pm
- Quad Cities and Carbondale Regions TBD.

More information on locations, the GRIT project, and other resources as they become available.



League Urges Supreme Court to Recognize Benefits of Diversity in Higher Education

The League joined the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law in filing a friend-of-the-court brief in the U.S. Supreme Court, urging the Court to uphold the University of Texas at Austin's admissions policies, including the university's reasonable efforts to encourage diversity in its classrooms. The amicus brief asks the Court to recognize that diversity in higher education is crucial for the success of our multi-racial democracy.

League Submits Comments on Hydraulic Fracking

The League submitted comments regarding EPA guidance for the use of diesel in hydraulic fracturing (fracking) activities. The comments read, in part:

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) is encouraged that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued draft guidance for the use of diesel in hydraulic fracturing and is accepting public comment regarding these changes. We believe it is imperative that existing requirements be further clarified in order to provide regulatory certainty, improve compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements and strengthen environmental protections.

League Aids in Collection of 3 Million Comments to the EPA

League, Coalition Partners Send Letter to EPA on Air Toxics Standards

The League of Women Voters helped to collect the record 3 million comments asking the EPA to curb industrial carbon pollution! This is an unprecedented tally that reflects the strong desire of Americans for national leadership to address climate change and its impact on public health. Additionally, the League joined coalition partners in the environment and public health areas in sending a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the future of air toxics standards for Portland cement kilns.

League Asks House Members to Honor New Ethics Rules Regarding National Conventions

The League joined coalition partners in asking members of the U.S. House to honor new congressional ethics rules prohibiting Members from participating in parties at the national nominating conventions that are paid for by lobbyists or lobbying organizations and are held to "honor" the Members.

League Joins in Supporting Lower Court Campaign Finance Disclosure Ruling

The League joined an amicus brief on an appeal to the DC Court of Appeals in the case of *Van Hollen vs. FEC*. The friend-of-the-court brief supports a lower court ruling that upheld strict disclosure requirements for the funding for electioneering communications.

League-led Redistricting Reform Qualifies for November Ballot

After months of signature gathering and public education, the Ohio League is celebrating this week following Secretary of State Jon Husted's announcement certifying a constitutional amendment for the Nov. 6 ballot. If passed, the amendment would put redistricting in the hands of an independent citizens commission. Congratulations to the OH League on this impressive step forward. We wish you luck in the next critical months of your campaign!

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR GIFT CARDS

Purchase gift cards to give as gifts or to use to buy gifts. Purchase gift cards to buy groceries, gas, office supplies, clothing, sports equipment, and much more. Purchase cards to donate to food pantries or homeless shelters. Purchase cards for restaurants where you like to eat. No matter what cards you purchase you will be assisting League in our fundraising. Thank you.

Make checks payable to League of Women Voters. Send orders to Nancy Duel, 115 N Windsor Dr, Arlington Hts, IL 60004. Any questions: Nancy Duel, 847-259-3793 or nduel@aol.com. If you are interested in a vendor not on the order form (next page), just ask, it may be available.

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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			\$

Consensus Questions

For Use at Consensus Meeting October 18

Considering the possible changes to the Illinois Pension System and their potential impacts on the six stakeholder groups:

What types of pension systems are sustainable and appropriate for Illinois and what reforms should the League recommend consistent with the language and wording of the Illinois Constitution?

Please indicate whether your League reached consensus for or against implementing each potential change or if no consensus was reached. A short rationale statement may be included.

Stakeholder Group I. Current Employees in the Five State Pension Systems

1. *Potential Change:* Raise the retirement age.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

2. *Potential Change:* Increase the minimum years of service requirement for full retirement benefits.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

3. *Potential Change:* Limit application of unused sick leave to years of service for pension calculation.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

4. *Potential Change:* Increase required employee contribution to pension plan.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

5. *Potential Change:* Calculated pension only on base salary, excluding such items as overtime summer school, etc.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

6. *Potential Change:* Strengthen anti-spiking provisions.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

7. *Potential Change:* Reduce pension Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) benefits.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

8. *Potential Change:* Establish maximum annual pension benefits.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

9. *Potential Change:* Increase early retirement penalty.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

10. *Potential Change:* Establish a transition period for employees near retirement age to mitigate the impact of any proposed changes.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

11. *Potential Change:* Establish defined contribution plan with participation in Social Security as replacement for state defined benefit/pension.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

Stakeholder Group II. Public School Districts, Public Community College Districts and Public Universities

Potential Change: Pay more into pension system with a transition period.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

Stakeholder Group III. Retirees Currently in the Five State Pension systems

Potential Change: Reduce pension Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) benefits.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

Stakeholder Group IV. All Retirees Who Live in Illinois

Potential Change: Apply Illinois state income tax to all retirement income

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

Stakeholder Group V. Illinois Taxpayers

Potential Change 1: Establish tax on services.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

Potential Change 2: Maintain current temporary 5% state income tax as permanent.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

Stakeholder Group VI. State of Illinois

Potential Change 1: Stretch pension funding ramp beyond 2045.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

Potential Change 2: Establish a contractual obligation of the State of Illinois to fund its five public pension systems.

CONSENSUS: For _____ Against _____ No Consensus _____

Rationale (1-2 sentences)

Additional Findings, if any.



- Michael B. Schroeder, D.D.S.
- Kenneth A. Johnson, D.D.S.
- Renee P. Pappas, D.D.S.
- Robert P. DiChristofano, D.D.S.
- Robert Busan, D.D.S.

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SE HABLA ESPAÑOL
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FAX: (312) 377-0707
E-mail: Budinlaw@aol.com

TELEPHONE (847) 253-5100

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ATTORNEY AT LAW

gdrost@dkmolaw.com
www.dkmolaw.com

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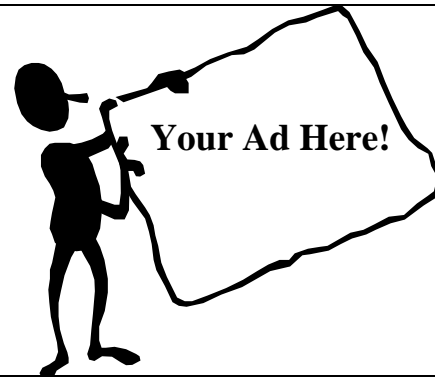
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See you at Pension events!

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