



League Links

LWV AH-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 2013

Volume 59, 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

September is 'Voter Registration Month'



Date	Time	Event
Tue, Sept 17		Constitution Day and Citizenship Day Commemorate the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, recognize all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens Send those Immigration Action Alerts. Article inside.
Tue, Sept 17		LWVIL's STATE OF THE STATE, a Celebration of 100 Years of Women's Suffrage in Illinois Union League Club of Chicago, 5 W. Jackson St., Chicago Go to lwvil.org to participate.
Thu, Sept 19	7 pm	AH Library program "Healthcare: The New Affordable Care Act" Speaker: Lori Martin, Envision Benefits Specialists Arlington Heights Library Register online or Call 847-392-0100
Thu, Sept 26	Doors open 7 pm Program begins 7:30 pm	LWV Public Education Program "Making Taxes Fair & Responsive" Speakers on the Graduated Rate Income Tax Project BRING FRIENDS & FAMILY
Tue, Oct 1		Illinois Health Insurance Exchange Rolls Out October 1
Thu, Oct 17	Doors open 7 pm Program begins 7:30 pm	LWV Public Education Program on the Affordable Care Act
Tue-Thu, Oct 15-17		EPA's State of Lake Michigan Conference - Sheboygan, WI Lake Michigan LWV is a co-sponsor of the SOLM this year Find speakers & workshops on the SOLM website aqua.wisc.edu/solm/
Thu, Oct 17	Follows SOLM Conf.	2013 Lake Michigan LWV Annual Meeting Blue Harbor Resort, Sheboygan, WI Details to follow at lakemichiganlwv.wordpress.com/

A Message from the Editor
(based on 2 letters and a blog post
From LWVUS Pres. Elisabeth McNamara)
Women's Equality Day
The 50th Anniversary March on Washington



Recently, League celebrated two anniversaries that mark important milestones for equality in America. On August 26, 1920, following over seven decades of tireless advocacy, the 19th Amendment became law and women gained the right to vote. On August 28, another significant anniversary occurs – the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s “I Have a Dream” speech.

Pres. McNamara speaks of League members joining others at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC to mark the anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and about how a central theme was the fight to protect our voting rights since the Supreme Court’s decision to erase fundamental protections in the VRA has opened the floodgates for anti-voter laws in states around the country.

The loudest cheers at the March sounded for Attorney General Eric Holder, whose DOJ announced August 22 that it was suing the state of Texas over their voter photo ID law implemented shortly after the Supreme Court’s *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder* decision earlier this summer. The LWVUS issued a statement: “League supports this action against the all-out attack on voting rights across the country. The League will continue to pursue all avenues to fight for voters’ rights, but we also need strong action by Congress to repair and restore the Voting Rights Act protections that have helped us prevent racial and language discrimination in our elections for decades.”

President McNamara writes, “It is truly sad that as we gather to celebrate the achievements of the Civil Rights movement, states are continuing to curtail voting rights and erecting barriers to voting that disproportionately impact the young, the elderly, poor and minority populations. The March on Washington was not just about voting; it was about equality of opportunity. It is up to all of us who care about this issue to be alert and active in insuring that equality of opportunity is the hallmark of our election laws. Finally Pres. McNamara reminds us that the League can play a key role on the ground in communities nationwide by building public support to urge our Representatives to repair and restore the VRA. Use the Action Alert on the LWVUS website.

LWV AH-MP-BG BOARD MEMBERS 2013-2014

<u>Position/Portfolio</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
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Voter Service	VACANT		
League Links Editor	Cathy Duoba		

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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

September Kickoff Program
****BIG CHANGE IN DATE, PLANS ****

Moved to Sept. 26

New topic: the Graduated Rate Income Tax



About mid-August, we learned that the AH Library was presenting a so-far-not-publicized meeting on the Affordable Care Act at 7 pm, Sept 19. If that sounds familiar, it's because all summer we've told you about our meeting: same date, same time, SAME TOPIC – big competition for the public's interest! Did the library want to partner? No. So we have switched our Sept. & Oct. meeting topics and delayed the Sept meeting for a week, hoping this does not inconvenience you too much. We expect the library program will be more "how to sign up" while our program will be a combination of advocacy and information. The ACA will be October's topic.

Want Taxes Levied "Fair Share"?

Worried where IL will find revenues for the State's Budget Crisis?

Our Sept meeting will be **Thursday Sept 26 on the Campaign to get Illinois a GRADUATED RATE INCOME TAX** – the GRIT project that we've run some bulletin articles last Feb. and March. Go to our website if, like me, you cannot find your old League Links.

Just what is the GRADUATED RATE INCOME TAX (GRIT) PROJECT? Illinois Leaguers believe our State needs a more responsive and fair fiscal policy. In League, belief leads to ACTION. The GRIT Project is the LWVIL's grassroots effort to get a Constitutional Amendment through the General Assembly and onto the Nov. 2014 ballot. This will allow voters to consider a graduated rate income tax, a long held League position. Our speakers will be LWVIL Issues Specialists Jean Pierce and Janet Kitlaus. Besides the bulletin articles, information on GRIT can be found at www.lwvil.org/grit-project.html.

We urge you to bring friends and family members

Taxes are ALWAYS a subject of interest, especially in a depressed economy and a topic of much debate during the presidential campaigns

Thursday, August 26, doors open 7 pm

AH Historical Society

Arlington Heights Library presents Healthcare: The New Affordable Care Act

Thursday, September 19, 7pm

Learn about the new healthcare legislation going into effect January 2014. Lori Martin, president of Envision Benefits Specialists, will explain how to effectively use your healthcare benefits and discuss the changing Medicare landscape and future trends in healthcare. Register online or Call 847-392-0100



**Our October Program will cover the ACA
Both Information and Advocacy**

LWVIL sent us this HEALTH CARE ISSUE REPORT: In July 2012, Governor Quinn, in the absence of legislative action, signed an Executive Order establishing a state-federal insurance Exchange partnership [a polite way of saying the General Assembly couldn't get their act together to agree on how to proceed with the state's own exchange]. So beginning on October 1, 2013, individuals and small businesses can compare and purchase private health insurance through the Exchange.

Public understanding of the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) remains low: a survey in April showed 42% unaware that, despite rumors to the contrary, ACA is still law. In order to reach the estimated 1 million eligible Illinois residents, a marketing and public relations firm was awarded a \$35 million contract. A diverse group of partners has been assembled to use digital and social media, plus targeted grass roots marketing. Blue Cross and Walgreens in a separate action announced a partnership to get the word out to potential enrollees. Several private insurance plans are now being vetted for the Illinois Exchange.

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR LIBRARY OFFERS ITS PATRONS IN THE WAY OF BOOKS RELATING TO FIREARMS

By Fay Michaelis



After reading Lethal Logic: Exploding the Myths That Paralyze American Gun Policy, I was impressed to the point where I thought, "Our Arlington Heights Library ought to have this book for the edification of its readers!" The author, Dennis Henigan, former lawyer with the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, drew on his many years of discussions with others about firearms, to refute clever-sounding, diversionary slogans, such as "Guns don't kill, people do." I filled out a request form to submit to the library. The request was denied!

This led me to wonder, "What exactly does the collection have on the subject of firearms?" After looking on the shelves and on the library's website listing: 6 adult books were found that offered objective examinations of both pro-regulation and anti-regulation views. Then, 5 books clearly opposed to regulation were found. Beyond that, 1 book put a glamorous spin and another put a macho spin on firearm ownership. Among the books in opposition 2 were written by John R. Lott, whose research has been discredited by a number of peers. The Concealed Handgun Manual was on the shelves before Illinois had a "concealed carry" law.

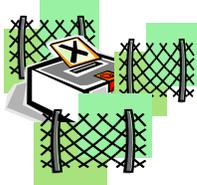
On the other hand, NO book was seen devoted to regulation of firearms or how public safety is compromised by lax laws. A request form was sent once again. This time for those unrepresented books-- along with a message telling of my disappointment with the inequity of viewpoints. Not too long afterwards, it was rewarding to find that books, such as Lethal Logic, Reducing Gun Violence in America, and America and Its Guns, had been added to the collection.

Perhaps this is something you might want to investigate at YOUR library and act upon if it seems called for! See our website, lwvah.org for a list of books related to firearms.

Thought for the Day

"A great democracy does not make it harder to vote than to buy an assault weapon."

Former President Clinton at the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.



Honor those Hero/ines of the Civil Rights Fight
"March" to your computer – "Agitate" an Action Alert
participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=8333

Congress has the power to act swiftly to restore the effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act. Help build public support for action. Tell your members of Congress to work quickly to repair and restore the VRA to ensure our elections are free, fair and accessible to all citizens. Take action; share the action alert with your contacts.

North Carolina has done Texas one better with the most restrictive voter suppression law in the US – thanks to the legislature Art Pope (a Koch Bros. cohort) bought with his millions. See the New Yorker, Oct 10, 2011, article "State for Sale" (www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/10/10/111010fa_fact_mayer) for the whole story.

After Pres. Obama won N.C. by 14,000 votes in 2008, three-fourths of the money spent by independent groups in 2010 came from Art Pope's many accounts. He targeted 22 races and won 18, giving Republicans control of N.C.'s legislature for the first time since 1870. Art Pope has been named N.C.'s Budget Director. Currently at least one county elections commission is trying to declare college students non-residents based on student dorms not being permanent residences, and they promise to "take their show on the road."

Gen. Colin Powell on Face the Nation August 25th: "You didn't need photo ID for decades before, is it really necessary now? They claim that there is widespread abuse and voter fraud, but nothing substantiates that. There isn't widespread abuse. And so these kinds of procedures that are being put in place...I think are going to backfire because these people are going to do what they have to do to vote. And I encourage that.

Chris Matthews on Hardball August 26th: "It's "political hack" thinking: the ends justify the means. Blacks won't vote for us so we'll screw them by blocking their access to the vote. Even under the desire for partisan advantage, you can't justify those laws because, in a democracy, that's the one thing you have to keep open -- the right to vote has to be the one thing we all agree on."

Immigration Debate Heads to the U.S. House

From LWVUS

The debate over comprehensive immigration reform moves now to the U.S. House of Representatives. After vigorous argument from both sides of the aisle on a path to citizenship for current immigrants, border security and other contentious issues, the Senate passed S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act on a strong bipartisan vote.



Citizenship Day, Sept 17, honors all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens. Tell your Representative (again and again) you support comprehensive immigration reform. Use the Action Alert at participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=8217

How Did the Need for Immigration Reform Arise?

Eleven million undocumented persons did not undergo hardship to make their way to America because we have AC or better TV shows!

They came because those “patriotic Americans” who have been portrayed to America as the important “job creators” were so eager to increase their profits, they put their desires above our laws, meanwhile exploiting these laborers with below-standard wages. They created jobs, for sure. These profiteers worked hard to increase the supply of these laborers, often sending agents south with handbills urging “Come to America, we have jobs for you”

Like those bankers whose actions gave themselves record profits but collapsed our economy, these businessmen pocketed their increased profits WITH IMPUNITY, but have left America’s social fabric torn in two, with whole communities living in the shadows while other groups of citizens hurl their mis-directed hate at the victims, not the instigators of this profitable exploitation.

By Cathy Duoba



Agricultural Update/Study Consensus Due April 4, 2014

By Cathy Duoba

We haven’t talked much about this update/study adopted at LWVUS a year ago because no info was coming from the LWVUS study committee. Recently, the committee sent notice that they are planning a phased release of study materials beginning in September and suggest that Leagues schedule consensus meetings beginning in January. Consensus reports are currently not due until April 4.

SO it is time to see if there are a few people interested in this issue. With only three board members, this is going to have to be a members’ project or our League cannot participate. Now, before you start turning the page, here are the topics to be covered in this study:

Current technology issues in agriculture include genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

I’m interested, but what’s the catch? What’s involved?

Committee members would download the study papers and materials from the LWVUS website. Should a member know of or find additional information on the topics, she would share them with the rest of the committee. The committee would meet to discuss and “digest” (pun intended) the information gathered and the LWVUS suggestions for presenting it to their fellow Leaguers. The committee would decide which background study material to put in the monthly League Links.

At our February and/or March program, the committee would present the study material and conduct the “consensus” (detailed explanations of how to do this are available on the LWVUS website).

Sold on helping out? Call our secretary Pat Lind

New UN IPCC Report OR “Mosquitos were worse this summer”

By Cathy Duoba

Action Alert at participate.lvv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=8275



The United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report was leaked in mid-August. The report finds that the recent increase in CO₂, methane, and nitrous oxide is unprecedented in the last 20,000 years. Additionally, re the certainty that humans are causing this climate change, the IPCC revised its last report in 2007, which cited a 90% certainty, to the 2013 figure of 95% certainty that humans are the principal cause of climate change. The report warns that sea levels could rise by 3 feet in the next 80 years. Also noted: 1983-2012 has been the warmest 30 year period in 800 years.

“Mosquitoes were worse this summer due to rainfall”, and experts predict the problem will grow with climate change. At our “Sisters on the Planet” program several years back, OX-FAM noted that mosquitoes are appearing in areas that never saw them before, causing malaria epidemics in undeveloped countries where mothers never saw this disease before and have no “wise-woman” knowledge of how to treat malaria. Climate scientists report that July was the 341st straight month with warmer-than-average global temperatures.

Joe Romm of the Center for American Progress’s “Climate Progress” says it has been millions of years since we had this much CO₂ in the atmosphere – at that time sea levels were 40 to 60 feet higher and temperatures were several degrees warmer...and man did not roam the earth, dinosaurs did.

When temperatures are higher than average, Climate Progress notes

Heat waves are longer and more intense

Dry areas experience droughts with accompanying wildfires:

2012 saw the most expansive area of drought in 50 years and the average 2012 wildfire burned twice as many acres as it did 40 years ago in spite of improved fire-fighting techniques

More water is evaporated and wet areas experience deluges and warmer oceans mean superstorms (Sandy)

Ice caps melt and land-locked ice, when it melts, produces a rise in seal levels.

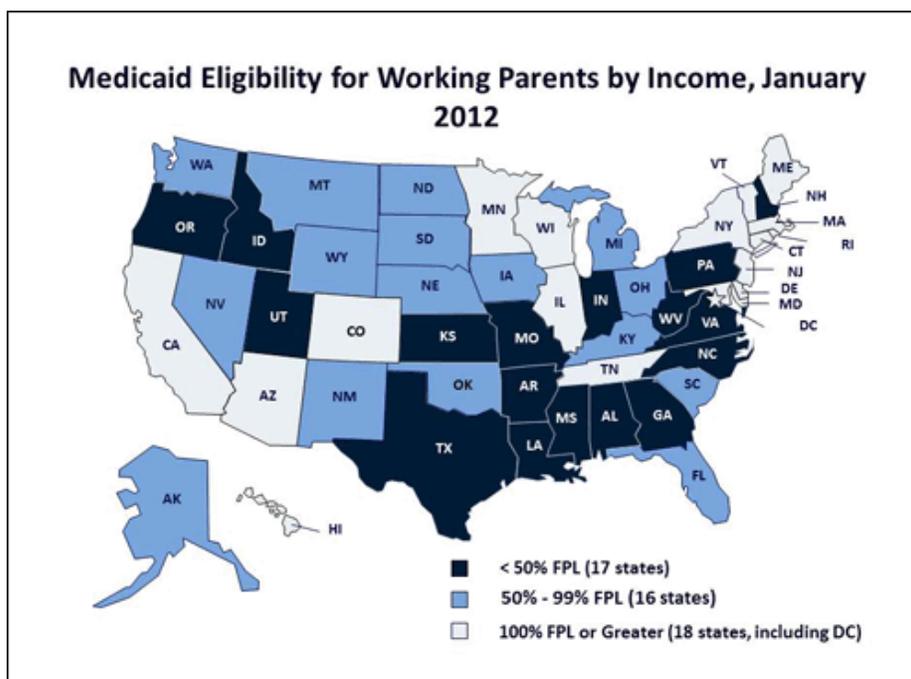
For accurate, fact based information regarding global warming misinformation campaigns, try DESMOGBLOG: Clearing the PR Pollution That Clouds Climate Science, www.desmogblog.com/

Climate Progress is found at thinkprogress.org/climate/issue/ (click on pic of woman scientist for Mr. Romm’s article)

An analysis of the leaked draft is at www.motherjones.com/environment/2013/08/five-terrifying-statements-ipcc-report

Why Medicaid Expansion is Desperately Needed

Kaiser Family Foundation: %age of Families under poverty level that qualify for a state’s Medicaid Program (States can disqualify poverty-level families by setting their Medicaid eligibility level under the poverty line)



NOTE: The federal poverty line (FPL) for a family of three in 2012 is \$19,090 per year. Several states also offer coverage with a benefit package that is more limited than Medicaid to parents at higher income levels through waiver or state-funded coverage.

SOURCE: Based on the results of a national survey conducted by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured and the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, 2012.

Ed. Note: **Darker is bad news**, means many poverty families NOT covered by state’s Medicaid program

24 Weeks or 20 Weeks, What's the Big Deal?

The way the Catholic Association mentions "late-term" abortions, you might think the only women who had them were lazy and callous, just waiting around until the last second for no good reason. While Roe allows abortions until viability (around 24-26 weeks), 98% of abortions occur BEFORE 20 weeks. Abortions later on often involve rare, severe fetal abnormalities and real threats to a woman's health. These are mothers who wanted their babies and have usually endured treatments to save the situation, but without success.

Indeed, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) wrote and published a letter to Texas lawmakers when a 20-week ban was nearing passage, urging them to "get out of exam rooms." We must draw a hard line against insidious legislation that threatens women's health. These 20-week bans are as much about interfering with the practice of medicine and the relationship a patient has with her physician as they are about restricting women's access to abortion. The Texas law was named the "Women's Health and Safety Law." As the OB/GYN letter insists: the fact is that these bills will not help protect the health of any woman in Texas or any other state. Instead, these bills will harm women's health in very clear ways. **And That's a Big Deal!** Sources: Texas Tribune and Maddowblog

Why Don't Conservatives Trust Women?

In the first three months of 2013's new state legislatures,
326 bills to restrict abortions were introduced

93 bills have been passed by at least one legislative chamber (as of **April**, 2013)

These laws are not bubbling up from the grassroots. Exit polls from the 2012 election show 77% of all voters and even 35% of pro-life voters do not want Roe v Wade overturned. These bills/laws, with "cookie cutter" language and provisions, have been pushed by Americans United for Life, which took over the abortion campaign when ALEC (the corporate-backed American Legislative Exchange Council) backed away from social issues after the boycott of corporate sponsors. ALEC is still very active on corporate-interest legislation.

During the past three years, due to conservative laws restricting women's right to choose, at least 54 abortion providers across 27 states have been shut down or ended their abortion services. A similar number of clinics are in jeopardy from restrictive state laws if current temporary injunctions are lifted. The Texas closures are not the result of laws, but of budget cut decisions that ended the state's woman's health service program.

Points to remember: At the time of the Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention, **abortion was legal** until quickening. Currently, these laws are restricting a **legal procedure** and a **protected constitutional right**.

Why Do Conservatives Want to Punish Women, Even When Women Choose to Be Mothers?

These conservative legislators who support restrictive laws also oppose equal pay for women, early childhood and maternity nutrition and health services, scientific sex education in schools, birth control as a preventive health service, etc. They also oppose Obamacare which eliminates rape, domestic violence, and pregnancy as pre-existing conditions.

For fact sheets & resource material: Guttmacher Institute, www.guttmacher.org/sections/abortion.php

For latest news and updates: National Organization for Women, www.now.org/issues/abortion/ (easier website)
or NARAL Pro-Choice America, www.naral.org/

by Cathy Duoba

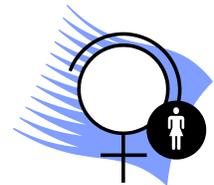
Rape in the Military: When Women Get Elected

By Cathy Duoba

The standard National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 passed the House last May. Then a bipartisan group of women Senators forced a hearing on the issue of rape in the military in June and the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee's Markup of National Defense Authorization Act includes a "Comprehensive Measure to Combat Crisis of Sexual Assaults in the Military" – NDAA is now "placed on the Senate Calendar."

Fact sheet from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand website:

www.gillibrand.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/gillibrand-fact-sheet-on-sexual-assaults-in-the-military



Update: LWVUS Call for Change in Fiscal Policy Focus on unemployment, safety net



With the battles over the continuing resolution to fund the federal government and the debt ceiling, it's time to emphasize again the LWVUS's call last December for a change of focus in fiscal policy. LWVUS stated the real problems facing the country were the millions of unemployed Americans and the dismantling of the safety net.

"...the LWVUS believes that the real deficit problem is lack of jobs and high unemployment and that the continuation of drastic cuts to the social contract's safety net in the name of deficit reduction harms the economy and our fellow citizens."

The President sees non-negotiation on the debt ceiling as a legacy issue: he will not leave future presidents subject to routine hostage-taking by a minority party. He sees that as a dangerous time-bomb. The conservative Right's determination to stand their ground on the debt ceiling results from their fixation on deficit reduction. But the deficit has already been cut in half and is falling faster than at any time since World War II.

Since last December, others have also seen the light. Fed Chair Ben Bernanke has testified several times to Congress that near-term budget cuts, like the sequester, are bad for the Economy. Professor Robert Reich, UC Berkley: "The deficit is now a very tiny portion of GDP...only 4% of the total economy by the end of this fiscal year. The Congressional Budget Office is predicting 3.4% next year. That is the same as the 30 year average of a 3.3% deficit as a percentage of GDP. This is a non-issue!"

Why is it so hard to change course? Carl Bernstein, journalist/author, cites the disconnect between Wall St. and Main St. which has resulted in a recovery that does not include working people. "It's the disgrace of this recovery. It goes back to the question of plutocracy." At a hearing on the problem of long-term unemployment by the 19-member Joint Economic Committee in April, only Vice-Chair Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) was present at the beginning, three Democrats trickled in, but no other Democrats and not a single Republican ever showed up. (No IL Senators or Reps serve on this Cmte.) Our representatives will not make changes if they fail to make themselves aware of their constituents' problems, but are bombarded with special interest lobbyists.

Source: lww.org; Prof Reich appearance on The Last Word, August 27, 2013; and thinkprogress.org/economy/2013/04/24/1917531/just-four-lawmakers-show-up-to-co

NEWS FROM LWVIL

Governor Quinn Signs Important Gun Safety Legislation

Many thanks to those of you who contacted your legislators and Governor Pat Quinn about recent gun safety legislation. LWVIL is happy to report that on Sunday, August 18th, Governor Quinn signed important gun safety legislation into law! The new law requires background checks on the sale of ALL guns in Illinois and requires the reporting to law enforcement of lost and stolen firearms.

MARK THE CALENDAR: STATE OF THE STATE A Celebration of 100 Years of Women's Suffrage in Illinois Tuesday, September 17, 2013 Union League Club of Chicago

We are excited to present a distinguished panel of four of Illinois's female elected officials--**Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon, and State Representative Patricia Bellock**--moderated by award-winning *Chicago Tribune* columnist **Mary Schmich**. Proceeds from the 2013 State of the State benefit the League's 501(c) (3) Education Fund and its mission of promoting civic education and voter service.





The REAL Scandal at the IRS The Law vs. The Regs

By Cathy Duoba



Ever since the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision opened the floodgates of anonymous corporate and private funding of election campaigns, the LWVUS has been working hard to get transparency in campaign financing by urging passage of the DISCLOSE Act. LWVUS history & position: www.lwv.org/content/campaign-finance. After *Citizens*, the number of applications, but not the staff, for 501 (c) (4) status doubled, bringing on this spring's furor over IRS supposed unequal treatment of applications. Once it was established that no conservative groups were denied status while several progressive groups were denied, the furor died down.

But, what if it shouldn't? What if the League's concerns over transparency and the IRS's problem of judging the degree of political activity could all be wiped away?

Why is 501 (c) (4) status so popular with campaign organizations, excuse me, "social welfare" organizations? There are two special issues with these organizations: they are tax-exempt and anonymous. It's not primarily that donations are tax-exempt, that's possible under Sec 527 organizations. It's because donating to 501 (c) (4) organizations can be done SECRETLY. But read the law's Guidelines: "Types of Organizations Exempt Under Section 501 (c) (4) Social welfare organizations: civic leagues or organizations not organized for profit but **operated exclusively** for the promotion of social welfare..." Compare that with the IRS Code of 1959 (the "regs") which reads "to be operated exclusively to promote social welfare, an organization must **operate primarily** to further the common good and general welfare of the people of the community."

The law says "exclusively"; the IRS regs say "primarily." These two words are not equal. For 54 years, no one has questioned the IRS's changing the wording and meaning of the law, leaving IRS agents to try and find ways of determining whether an organization's activities are primarily for social welfare. And eventually "primarily" became 51% or "majority". The IRS has been terrified for several years of getting into just such a fight as this where they would be accused of being politicized. The irony is that, after this fight, the IRS will be even more afraid and these organizations will be even more unregulated.

There is a small movement in Congress to make the IRS return to the law's wording. If this movement would grow and become successful, the IRS could forget trying to decide which activity is political and which social-welfare. Donors who want to give huge amounts of tax-exempt money to their favorite candidates could still do so through a Sec 527 organization – but they could no longer do so secretly. They would have to be named – giving the League the transparency they are seeking under the DISCLOSE Act. Problem: this change is as popular with the special interests as the DISCLOSE Act is.

That leaves the question of buying the government (ala Art Pope in North Carolina) and the future of democracy in the hands of the people. People fear the IRS being used to attack democracy (see Nixon),
but the IRS also has a role defending democracy.

Source: Ezra Klein, the Washington Post, WONKBLOG, on MSNBC's The Last Word, May 15, 2013

See also <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/05/14/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-irs-scandal-in-one-faq/>

News from the Lake Michigan LWV

By Cathy Duoba

At our annual picnic, Rosemary Heilemann and Henrietta Saunders joined us to bring us news of what the Lake Michigan LWV will be doing with the new Ecosystem position adopted at June's LWVIL Convention. Good news: **all eight Great Lakes State Leagues** have concurred on the adoption of the LWVMI Ecosystem Position. Thanks to all of our LMLWV Board members who worked so hard to make this happen at the various state conventions. Now all the State LWVs from states surrounding the Great Lakes are "on the same page" and can "speak with one voice." It should be a very productive future. Check out lakemichiganlwv.wordpress.com/ for more info on Lake Michigan issues, problems, and projects.

2013 LMLWV Annual Meeting Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin!

The meeting will be held in the afternoon on Thursday, immediately following the EPA's State of Lake Michigan Conference for which LMLWV is a co-sponsor of the SOLM this year. Mark the dates: Oct. 15-17. The speakers and workshops there will be amazing and informative, and the networking possibilities are terrific! Consider attending the entire event! Check out the SOLM website now: <http://aqua.wisc.edu/solm/> ;

Our next SPLASH! Will include more details!



NEWS FROM LWVUS

March for the Dream on August 24th

On August 24, League members marched to commemorate the 50th anniversary March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The event included speakers, entertainment and prayer. The march began after the speaking program ended and proceeded down Independence Ave. to the Washington Memorial.

DOJ Announces Lawsuit Against TX Voter Photo ID Law

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced that it was suing the state of Texas over their voter photo ID law implemented shortly after the Supreme Court's *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder* decision earlier this summer. The LWVUS issued [a statement](#): "League supports this action against the all-out attack on voting rights across the country. The League will continue to pursue all avenues to fight for voters' rights, but we also need strong action by Congress to repair and restore the Voting Rights Act protections that have helped us prevent racial and language discrimination in our elections for decades."

North Carolina Officials' Target College Students' Right to Vote— LWVNC Responds

In yet another assault on voters, officials in North Carolina have announced plans to shut down early voting sites and challenge student voter residency on historically black colleges. The League of Women Voters of North Carolina urges the Department of Justice (DOJ) to do everything in their power to protect the voters of North Carolina and calls on Congress to repair and restore the Voting Rights Act (VRA).

LWVNC Springs into Action Within hours of Suppressive Voting Bill Signing

North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory signed the nation's most suppressive omnibus voter bill into law. The League of Women Voters of North Carolina went straight to action, [filing a federal lawsuit to challenge the voting restrictions as racially discriminatory](#) and request that the state be placed back into preclearance under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. For more info check out the LWVUS blog or read the complaint at www.southerncoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Early-Voting-Complaint.pdf



NEWS FROM LWVIL

YES TO INDEPENDENT MAPS

At its Board meeting on Saturday, August 10, the LWVIL Board voted to support the Yes to Independent Maps initiative, a grassroots campaign working to put a redistricting reform amendment on the November 2014 Illinois ballot.

League members are encouraged to participate. If you are interested in passing petitions, please go the Yes for Independent Maps website where you'll find the information you need: independentmaps.org.

Illinois Insurance Exchange Rolls Out October 1st

For a quick update of the ACA, the healthcare issues specialists recommend that people view the new Kaiser Foundation animated video, along with consumer information at www.kff.org. "The YouToons Get Ready for Obamacare" is available for download to your local league web site and for presentations. The LWVIL Healthcare Issues Specialists, Janet Craft and Margaret O'Hara, can be contacted through issues@lwvil.org to ask questions or become involved with health care advocacy.



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

See You Sept. 26 for "Making Taxes Fair & Responsive"!

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