



# 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

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October 2015

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### 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
Thu, Oct 15	Doors open at 7pm Program at 7:30pm 	Public Event – Join us as we learn more about a redistricting reform proposal. The Independent Map Amendment will create a system where voters choose their representatives. Audience Q&A follows the presentation. Arlington Heights Historical Society 110 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
Sat, Oct 24	9am to 3pm	LWV-Upper Mississippi River Region ILO First Annual Meeting Grand River Center 350 Bell Street, Dubuque, IA 52001
Tue, Nov 3	6:30pm-9pm	Board Meetings occur on the first Tuesday of the month. Members, you are welcome to join us at Connie's house.
Thu, Nov 19	Doors open at 7pm Program at 7:30pm 	Public Event – Join us for a presentation titled 'Cook County Matters' presented by Cynthia Schilsky. Arlington Heights Historical Society 110 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
Tue, Dec 1	6:30pm-9pm	Board Meetings occur on the first Tuesday of the month. Members, you are welcome to join us at Connie's house.
Tue, Jan 5	6:30pm-9pm	Board Meetings occur on the first Tuesday of the month. Members, you are welcome to join us at Connie's house.
Mon, Jan 18	Mark Your Calendar!	Public Event – Film Screening Metropolis Performing Arts Center 111 W. Campbell, Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Tue, Feb 2	6:30pm-9pm	Board Meetings occur on the first Tuesday of the month. Members, you are welcome to join us at Connie's house.
Thu, Feb 18	Mark Your Calendar!	Members, join us as we participate in the LWVUS Money in Politics Study. Heidi is hosting us at her house.

**Successful Start of year  
by Heidi Graham**

The “Meet-n-Greet” event on Friday night, October 2nd, was a success. We had a small showing of League members, a few elected officials and about 30 in total attending. The officials in attendance were Rep. David Harris and his wife Michelle, Arlington Heights Village President Thomas Hayes, Mt. Prospect Mayor Arlene Juracek, Arlington Heights trustee and League member Robin LaBedz, Mt. Prospect trustee Colleen Saccottelli, and Arlington Heights Library board member Joan Brody Garkisch. In addition, seven (7) new members joined and we had one anonymous donation of \$20. The board considers this a success and the board plans to make this a yearly event to kick off our programming.

On Thursday September 17, Arlington Heights Trustee Thomas Glasgow present a “Basics of the Constitution” event, attendance was small. We handed out pocket constitutions. My daughter, Rhegan Graham, videotaped the program and you are able to watch it on YouTube.

Upcoming programs include Independent Map Amendment: A Redistricting Reform Proposal when a representative from the Independent Map Amendment will explain how this proposed amendment will create a system where voters choose their representatives instead of the current system where the representatives choose their voters. On November 19, Cynthia Schilsky from LWV Cook County will present a program “Cook County Matters.” Both of these events will take place at the Arlington Heights Historical Museum at 110 West Fremont Street. Doors open at 7pm and the programs will begin at 7:30. Bring a friend!

We are also excited to announce that Metropolis Theatre has generously offered their space to us at NO CHARGE (a \$300 savings) for our annual Martin Luther King event. We will show a movie and Dan Gire, Daily Herald Theatre critic, will possibly moderate a Q & A. Mark your calendars and bring your friends and family.

Last, I would like to invite you to join me in a casual movie outing on Sunday, October 25 to see the movie “Suffragette” at the Randhurst AMC. The theatre has not yet posted movie times and closer to the date I will EMAIL the time. Please call me at 847-687-2497 if you do not get email and would like to join us.

Finally, in addition to our Facebook page and website, we have a new social media presence. Follow us on Twitter!  
<https://twitter.com/lwvahbg>

To view the constitution video go to [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di2rfHW\\_ysA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di2rfHW_ysA)

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Meet the League-Cathy Duoba:  
Following in Her Mother's Footsteps Despite Her Best Efforts  
by Heidi Graham

Cathy Duoba grew up in Des Plaines. Her mother was a founding member of the League of Women Voters in Des Plaines and Cathy had no desire to join the same organization; no girl wants to follow in her mother's footsteps. But in the late 1960's there was a series of tragic fires in the "substandard shacks" on the outskirts of town between Elk Grove Village and Arlington Heights where settled-out-migrant nursery workers were living. The fires resulted in the deaths of five children. Cathy joined her church group involved in the push for safe and affordable housing. When she attended a meeting where the area churches were forming a coalition, there was only one person, Kay Peterson, who was able to address the issue in an informed and educated manner. After the meeting, Cathy approached Ms. Peterson to ask how she knew so much on the issue. The answer: League of Women Voters. And Cathy thought, "Oh shit! Now I'll HAVE to join the League."

As a result of the coalition's efforts, land at Euclid and Dryden was made available by the Viatorians at a reduced price for a subsidized housing development. When zoning was denied for the development, a lawsuit was filed by the developer. The case dragged on for ten years and eventually ended up in the Supreme Court. Our League, joined by the national, state, and county Leagues filed an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief giving the arguments for why the Supreme Court should support the need for affordable FAMILY housing in Arlington Heights.

Eventually the Supreme Court sided with the developer and the League. Furthermore, during those years, several surrounding communities, seeing how the lawsuit that League supported was winning in the courts, decided to grant zoning for nine other subsidized developments rather than risk being sued. Even though the Arlington Heights housing was eventually built on the edge of town, far from park, library and other city services, Cathy is proud to be a part of an organization dedicated to the issue of housing for low income families.

Cathy, a trained organic research chemist, worked briefly for Abbott Labs prior to having her first son. When she needed to go back to work she re-trained for two years as a medical lab technician but found an inhospitable job environment. Pat Lindner, fellow League member, housing advocate, and employee of the Housing Authority of Cook County, alerted Cathy to a job opening. Cathy's work with the League on affordable housing gave her the background and tools necessary for the job of NW Suburban Field Rep. Cathy was with HACC for twenty years.

Cathy has been an active member of LWVAH for 45 years. Though she is interested in many issues, housing has always been the issue she is most passionate about, but other passions include Equal Rights Amendment, civil/voting rights, and the environment.

Cathy is quite obviously and deservedly, most proud of the work League has done to champion affordable housing. Additionally, her experience with League, specifically with former State Representative and League member Eugenia Chapman, taught her how to be a more effective advocate in the political process. Words of Wisdom: Begin your approach with a compliment and then ask for what you want. Don't ignore people who hold opposing views; you never know when they are listening. Always thank a representative who is supporting your cause. Good words of advice no matter what.

Finally, when asked why someone should join League, Cathy responded, "If what you see on the 10 o'clock news bothers you, join League." She went on to explain League will inform you with studied facts and train you to be an advocate for things that worry you. Finally, League allows you to focus on the one issue most near and dear to your heart without having to completely abandon other issues that matter to you. How? There will always be someone in the organization who will keep abreast of those other issues for you.

## **NEWS FROM LWV Upper Mississippi River Region**

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The LWV-Upper Mississippi River Region ILO, affectionately known as the “UMRR, is conducting its first annual meeting in Dubuque on Saturday, October 24. The agenda includes bylaws approval, a keynote presentation, networking, and program adoption.

Illinois’ state representative to the ILO Steering Committee is Bonnie Cox. Bonnie’s contact information is as follows: [bonniekaycox@gmail.com](mailto:bonniekaycox@gmail.com), 815-777-9282, and 815-238-1725.

Our League is a member of this ILO which is on the web at:

<https://www.lwvmn.org/local-leagues/upper-mississippi-river-region-inter-league-organization>



## **NEWS FROM LWVIL**

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The League is doing a US Constitution Amendment Study. If you are interested in learning more, LWV Palatine is participating and we are investigating if we can join forces with their study efforts. With few active volunteers, we are unsure if we can make this a reality. Please contact a board member if you are interested in this study.

LWVIL continues to look for “Membership Leader Development” (MLD) opportunities and highlighted a few success stories. Several leagues (Rockford and JoDaviess) have cultivated relationships with newspapers to gain regular coverage, and LWV McLean County has gotten a commitment from a local radio station to have a monthly spot featuring the League. The MLD committee will be reaching out to local Leagues that have not signed up for the program to offer support.

Save the Date!! This year the Issues Briefing will take place on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at the University Center of Chicago, Congress & State, with a new starting time, 10:00 am. The first plenary speaker is Congresswoman Robin Kelly, who will speak about gun violence and actions to reduce it.

Budget Impasse Actions: The Issues Committee spent considerable time discussing the impact of the budget impasse on our state services and institutions and the ways LWVIL and its members can make a difference.

The Illinois Independent Map Amendment is fully supported by the League and the League was recognized in the month of September as “volunteer of the month.”



## **NEWS FROM LWVUS**

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The big news of the month was National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 22. Many events were held across the country to register new voters. The important information for us locally are the deadlines for registration in Illinois. For the March 15 Primary, the regular registration deadline is February 16, 2016. For grace period registration and voting, the first day is February 17 and the last day is March 15. For the General Election on November 8, the regular registration deadline is October 8. The grace period voting and registration begins on October 12 and ends on November 8.

In addition to in-person events aimed at registering voters, four more states have added online registration to their state’s system. The newest state to launch an online program is Pennsylvania. Iowa and Kentucky will have their League Links

programs in place by early 2016. The only caveat is the need to have a valid ID with a signature on file with the state. League continues to work to lift this restrictive process. Illinois has online registration and also requires an ID to complete the registration. Illinois does allow registrants to print and mail their registration with the last four digits of their social security number in lieu of an ID.

File under “2 steps forward, 1 giant step back.” The state of Kansas began purging its voter list of tens of thousands of eligible voters unable to present the new restrictive proof-of-citizenship requirement. These voters, many who do not even know they have been purged, will have to begin the registration process all over again. The League is working to inform these voters—a daunting task.

The most recent “Take Action” involves supporting the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Methane Pollution Regulation. The EPA has proposed the first-ever methane pollution standard for new and modified oil and gas facilities. This is a big deal – right now, the oil and gas industry is leaking millions of tons of methane and other toxic chemicals into the air. The proposed rule would help rein them in.

The League in Ohio has made waves by showing how Gerrymandering, a term coined in the 1800’s when Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry created a district that looked like a salamander, has taken the “swing” out of the famous swing state. The League studied the 2012 and 2014 elections and found that elections were won in 75 percent of the races by the party representing 57 percent of the populous. Illegal? Not quite. LWV of Ohio is hoping to pass an amendment, similar to the one proposed in Illinois, to solve the issue of gerrymandering.

To celebrate the upcoming 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 2020, the League has agreed to become a partner with the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association (TPSMA) in creating a memorial that celebrates the fight for women’s suffrage and its relevance today. Donations of \$1000 or more will be recognized on the donor wall.

**Abbreviated highlights of the 15-page document entitled:  
“Electing the President: A Guide to the Election Process.”**

- Visit [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) to find out if you’re registered to vote and, if not, how to register to vote. Check your registration if you’ve recently moved.
- If you plan to vote absentee, remember to request your ballot at least 30 days prior to the election.
- When going to the polls, bring an ID or a document (utility bill) that includes your name and address. Voting is the great equalizer. One citizen=one vote.
- Our right to vote was achieved through the blood and tears of our forefathers. In the early stages of our country, only white, land owning men, age 21 and older could vote. Celebrate the right of every citizen, 18 and older, to vote.
- Voting rights are protected by the 15th amendment (race, color or previous condition of servitude), the 19th amendment (sex), the 24th amendment (failure to pay taxes), 26th amendment (age 18).
- Many states have tried to enact unfair voting restrictions. But the Voting Rights Act, originally enacted in 1965, the National Voter Registration Act, signed into law in 1993, and the 2002 Help America Vote Act strive to break down these unfair practices.
- Since 1960 voter turnout has steadily declined, with a brief exception in the early 2000’s when there was a slight uptick. In 2012, voter turnout was a mere 45%. We can do better.
- The founders were opposed to political parties but political parties allow like-minded citizens to join together behind one candidate and make the coordination of policymaking more streamlined.
- If you check the box on your tax return “Presidential Election Fund,” \$3 from the taxes you pay ANYWAY are set aside for the election fund. This does NOT increase your taxes by \$3. Our democracy depends on this fund.
- If a candidate pays for an ad it must say “I am X and I approve this ad” (or something similar).
- Be aware of the source of information.
- The Supreme Court recently ruled that campaign contributions are a form of “free speech,” thus giving rise to “Super PAC’s” (Political Action Committees). In recent elections, presidential candidates have refused public funds because if they agree to accept the public funds they also have to agree to limit what they raise and spend and play by a set of rules. Additionally, if the candidate accepts public funds, an individual can only contribute \$2700. The skies the limit if the candidate refuses these public funds.
- Polls can easily be skewed and in the end, the only poll that matters is the official poll on Election Day. The message: be skeptical.

- The internet makes obtaining information incredibly easy but it also makes it simple to pass along false information. Be skeptical when you surf.
- Organizations can place ads for a particular candidate as long as it is not directly coordinated with the candidate.
- A candidate that has not officially announced they are running for president is able to create a “Leadership PAC” that does not count against their fundraising limits. This Leadership PAC allows the candidate to explore the possibility of a presidential run and generate publicity. The next step is to file with the Federal Election Committee (FEC) papers indicating an “exploratory committee.” Finally, the candidate officially announces their intention to run.
- In the primary, the vote is cast for a delegate committed to a particular candidate and not the candidate directly. Typically this election is limited to your registered party and in some states the result is binding. Other states have a non-binding primary. Illinois is a non-binding state, meaning the delegate can choose to vote for whatever candidate they want at the primary. The nature of the primary means that the majority of voters in this election are typically either “far right” conservative or “far left” liberal. (Editor’s note: Possibly another reason voters are jaded.)
- The Iowa Caucus and New Hampshire primary are the first two major electoral events and influence the final outcome greatly.
- The “Convention” is the official event where each party chooses the candidates for President and Vice President (Editor’s note: In the early years of our country, the Vice President was 2nd place for President in the election, resulting in pairings of opposite minded politicians.)
- Once the candidates are chosen at the DNC and RNC, the candidate will “shift to center.” Meaning, trying to adjust their message to appeal to a wider audience without alienating their dedicated “far right” and “far left” voters.
- The campaign for President occurs in four stages: Grass Roots: Local, mostly volunteers; On the Ground: Appearances and speeches; Advertising: 1/3 of the money spent is on advertising; Online: websites and social media.
- Debates: Town Hall: questions are submitted by a randomly selected group of voters; Panel: Journalists or other experts pose the questions; Single Moderator: one person asks the questions.
- The Electoral College: The founding fathers reached a compromise of election of the President by Congress or by popular vote by establishing the “Electoral College.” Each state is assigned a number of electors based on the total number of representatives and senators the state has. The candidate receiving 270 “electoral” votes wins the election. During the election, voters are casting a vote for this elector and not the candidate, even though the ballot names the candidate.
- Though the outcome of the election is generally known by the morning after the election, it is not official until the members of the Electoral College travel to their state capitals and cast their official vote and sign the necessary documentation. At noon on the 20th of January, the term of the preceding president ends and that of the incoming president begins.

To send your support for the EPA’s proposed regulation, go to  
[http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=11619](http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=11619)

More information on Voter Registration dates can be found  
<http://www.elections.state.il.us/Downloads/ElectionInformation/PDF/2016ElectionSchedule.pdf>

For more information on the suffragist memorial [www.suffragistmemorial.org](http://www.suffragistmemorial.org).

For the online registration go to <https://ova.elections.il.gov>

For the complete guide visit <http://lwv.org/files/ElectingthePresident2016.pdf>

For more information on the election visit [vote411.org](http://vote411.org) or [factcheck.org](http://factcheck.org) (others are listed in the “Electing the President” document)

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