

The Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago
Website - www.LWVChicago.org

April 2008
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Dates To Remember

Meetings held at the
League Office
Unless otherwise
Noted

To check on committee
meetings- call the office.

Every Tuesday
Development Committee
Meeting - SOC
2:00 pm

An Education Committee
Meeting will be
Scheduled in April.

**Friday May 2nd
State of the City
Luncheon
11:30 am –
Registration
12:00 noon – Lunch
Union League Club
65 W. Jackson Blvd.**

Monday May 5th
Housing Committee
10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Executive Committee
At the call of the
President

Monday, May 12th
Board Meeting
5:30 pm

Saturday May 17th
Education Briefing
10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Renaissance 2010

Monday May 19th
Cook County
Annual Meeting

President's Column

Dear League Members:

We are always asking you for your participation in our activities. Here are two aspects of our mission.

1. Action: As of this writing, the issue of the proposed Children's Museum in Grate Park is being discussed. The LWVChicago position is that the lakefront be "free of obstacles such as building and roads." (See our statement on the website.) Please contact your alderman. *This is not a done deal.* The final City Council vote is in June.

The two House of the State Legislature are discussing recall of elected officials and gun control. We have a position *in favor* on the latter topic. Please keep informed, because we may ask you to contact your legislators.

2. Education: Our mission is to inform the citizens on governmental and public policy issues. This would be in the form of briefings and public meetings. The State of The City Luncheon on Friday, May 2, has as its topic Moving 3 Million People 24/7. we have a panel of knowledgeable people on this issue. We are looking forward to your participation in this event by your presence or donation.

The Cook County LWV has its Annual Meeting on Monday May 19th, at the Brookfield Zoo. The speaker is Michael Shakman. Of course, the topic will be employment practices. The LWV Cook County Board will present the results of studies on the Cook County Budget and other aspects of this level of government.

Our Annual Meeting is Saturday, June 21st at the Union League Club. We will present the Slate of Officers, Board Members and Nominating Committee Members and the Operating Fund Budget.

With the Chicago Public School system having charter schools, magnet schools, contract schools, performance schools, and autonomous schools plus whatever comes under Renaissance 2010 we need to update our position. There are some important questions to ask: Who attends? How are they funded and staffed? How do they align with the Chicago Teachers Union? What provisions do they have for parent involvement? How are they viewed by the Chicago Teacher's Union? Meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 17th, 10:00 am until noon. We ask at least one person per unit and/or neighborhood. All are welcome to briefing sessions.

Richard J. Daley Urban Forum

In 2008, for the first time in history, half of the earth's population will live in cities, and by 2030, the world will have almost five billion urban dwellers.

The fourth annual Richard J. Daley Urban Forum will bring together mayors and scholars from around the globe to address the different ways in which cities experience this new urbanization. Mayors from cities in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Lithuania, the United States and other countries will approach urbanization not as a crisis, but as an opportunity. They will assess possible solutions that arise from government action, social entrepreneurship and public-private partnerships. They will examine cities as wellsprings of innovation and discuss how cooperation among cities can lead to novel and effective solutions.

April 29, 2008 – 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

University of Illinois at Chicago

New Illinois Forum Building
725 W. Roosevelt Rd., Chicago, Illinois
Breakfast/registration begins at 7:30 am

Register online by

April 22, at www.ridurbanforum.uic.edu

If you have questions or need additional information, please call Shannon Stillwagon

\$25.00 per person/free to all students

Cost includes parking and continental breakfast and lunch.

The Chicago Voter

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Esta Kallen	President
Margaret Herring	Vice President
Pamela Stauffer	Vice President
Norma Braude	Secretary
Rochelle Riffer	Treasurer
Winnie Slusser	Voter Editor pro-tem

LWVCC News

2008 Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Monday May 19, 2008

In the Discovery Center

At the Brookfield Zoo

Admittance and adjacent parking are free
Enter South entrance and follow signs

THE SHAKMAN DECREE ITS HISTORY AND PRESENT DAY IMPACT

FEATURING MICHAEL SHAKMAN

9:00 am – Registration, Continental Breakfast

9:30 am – Annual Meeting

11:00 am – Mr. Shakman's presentation and questions

12:00 pm – Luncheon "Zoo Stop" Deli Buffet

The cost will be \$35.00 per person including all activities.

To donate items for the silent Auction please contact Sandy Williams.

Call the office for information on registering for this event. 312-939-5935.

The League of Women Voters of
Winnetka-Northfield-Kenilworth

Presents

School Funding: At the Tipping Point? A Forum on Education Funding

Monday April 28th at 10:00 am
Coffee and refreshments at 9:45 am
Northfield community Center
401 Wagner Road, Northfield

Panel Members:

Elizabeth Coulson, State Representative, 17th
District

Ralph Martire, Executive Director, Center for
Tax and Budget Accountability

Penny Lanphier, President, District 36 School
Board

Linda Yonke, Superintendent, New Trier High
School

State of the City Luncheon

This is the major fundraiser for the Chicago League of Women Voters. We need you to participate in whatever way you can!

Moving 3 Million People 24/7.

The LWVChicago event of the year will be held on Friday, May 2, 2008 at the Union League Club 65 West Jackson Street.

**Registration: 11:30 am
Luncheon : 12:00 noon**

Honorary Chairman:
Mayor Richard M. Daley

Corporate Chairman:
Lisa C. Snow, Managing Director, Huron Consulting Group.

Your support will make it a success.

As chairman of the Transportation Committee, Illinois Representative **Julie Hamos**, one of our guest speakers, was instrumental in guiding the recent legislation on mass transportation funding through the General Assembly.

Laurence Msall, President of the Civic Federation, is another speaker. He has been quoted often in the media about the necessity of funding mass transportation.

Our third speaker is **Frank Beal**, Director of Chicago Metropolis, 2020 This organization supports a well planned transportation system for the Chicago area.

Mike Flannery, the well known political analyst from Channel 2, will be the moderator.

This year we are honoring two outstanding women, *Sister Patricia Crowley O.S.B.* for her work with Deborah's Place and Housing Opportunities for Women and *Jackie Grimshaw*, vice President for Policy Transportation and Community Development Activities for her work with the Chicago Center for Neighborhood Technology.

If the transportation legislation had not been passed, the public would have faced very grim prospects. There would have been many hardships for people who depend upon public transportation including going to school, work, medical appointments, social occasions and all other events of urban life. Roads would be even more congested if people had to drive. Also, pollution would increase with more cars using the roads. But, there is more to do regarding mass transportation.

If you have misplaced your invitation, please fill out the form in the Voter and mail it with your check to the League office.

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Or you can make your reservation via the League website – www.lwvchicago.org/.

We are looking forward to seeing you May 2nd at the State of the City® Luncheon.

Remember: your contribution to this event goes into the Education Fund of the Chicago League, its 501c3 arm (not-for-profit organization) and any contribution in excess of \$40.00 is tax deductible.

State of the City Chair: Clara Fleming
Members: Esta Kallen, President; Norma Braude, Leslie Corbett, Daphne Daume, Emelda Estelle, Helene Gabelnick, Patricia Grauake, Joyce Haeckel, Beverly Meyer, Winnie Slusser, Lois Snyder

LWVUS Immigration Position Adopted by National Board, March 2008

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;

Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;

- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;
- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and

- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S.

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

LWVChicago News

Have you applied to become a member of the Chicago League Board – if not, why not?

Would you like to receive reports of Briefing Sessions? If so please let us know. We prefer not to put them in the **Voter** in their entirety since it would add extra pages to the **Voter**, and not every- one is interested in each specific issue.