

The Chicago Voter

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

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President's Column

Happy New Year to all League members and their families! I hope your celebrations of Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza and any other holiday you celebrate was the happy experience we all anticipate and need. The year 2008 will bring us some interesting times. The Primary Election in early February will take place in many states, and all the campaigning is upon us. It will probably give us a front-runner for President and the array of candidates for other offices and delegates for the conventions next summer. Slightly less than a year from now is the General Election which always brings hopes and promises for better times to come.

For us, the Chicago, Cook County and Illinois Leagues, there is the LWVIL State of the State Luncheon on January 24th, the LWV Issues Briefing February 23rd, the State of the City Luncheon, May 2nd, the Cook County Annual Meeting May 19th, and the Chicago Annual meeting, June 7th. The LWVUS Convention is in Portland, Oregon the 13th – 17th of June.

We in Illinois will be facing the decision to hold a Constitutional Convention. A "yes" or "no" vote will be on the November ballot. The briefing on this topic will be Saturday, March 1st. Con-Con is very important. There are many ramifications with both the "for or against" point of view. League members should be well informed in order to communicate the various aspects of the league's position. We plan to have one public meeting (or more) on the issue.

Health Care and Education are other topics scheduled for briefings. The Unit Leader's meeting is Saturday, January 26th. A partial calendar available in the **Voter** for the balance of the year.

If you have not renewed your dues for 2007-`2008, the deadline is now! You will be dropped this month. This is your last **Chicago Voter**. Please stay involved. We need you!

fsta

Elections are Coming

Candidates Forums

The League of Women Voters of La Grange Area and the League of Women Voters of Palos/Orland and The League of Women Voters of Chicago are sponsoring a Public Forum for the Candidates for U. S. Representative in the Third Congressional District. It will be held on Sunday, January 13th 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the Lyons Township High School, Community room 140, 100 S. Brainard Avenue, La Grange. (Parking just north of the main entrance on Cassitt Avenue).

Candidates from the Democratic party include: Jerry Bennett, Jim Capparelli, Congressman Dan Lipinski, and Mark Pera. The Republican party candidate: Arthur J. Jones and the Green party candidate: Jerome Pohlen.

You are invited to send in your questions for the candidates in advance to:"

www.voterissues@comcast.net.

MORE FORUMS

In addition, some forums which may be co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Chicago and A+ Illinois, a public education advocacy organization include:

Chicago West: Senate District 5, House District 9 & 10: Wednesday January 15th, 6:00 PM. North Lawndale College Prep High School, 1615 S. Christiana Ave.

Chicago South: House District 26th: January 16th, 6:00 PM, Dr. Martin Luther King H.S. 4445 S. Drexel Blvd.

Chicago; Near Northwest: Senate District 2: January 22nd: 6:30 PM, Erie Neighborhood House, 1347 W. Erie St.

Chicago South: Senate District 3, House Districts 5 & 6: January 23rd, 6:00 PM - Chicago Urban League, 4501 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago Far South: House District 27 & 28: January 24th, 4:00 PM, Morgan Park H.S. 1744 W. Pryor.

These are all scheduled, but we are not partners on all of them. Nevertheless, our members should attend.

We hope to have information on others as we are made aware of them. Call the Chicago Office : 312-939-5935 ext. 27.

Primary Election Tuesday, February 5th VOTE!

We trust you are planning to vote on Tuesday, February 5th. As long as you are going to your polling place, you can be a pollwatcher! All it takes is five to ten minutes and credentials. After you have voted, introduce yourself to the Election Judges. (You are likely to know them) and show your credentials from the Board of Elections and signed by the LWV (Esta). Ask the questions on the page and return it to us.

We are part of the Pollwatching Project of the Cook County League. Two visits to the polling place are preferred, one early in the day and one at closing time. But one is fine. You can stay all day and observe if you wish. Usually more than one precinct votes at a particular location, so you can do more than one report. Separate credentials are needed for each precinct. The results of these reports are discussed with the Board of Elections for the purpose of improving the voting experience.

This is part of the LWV mission and your participation is expected. For volunteering and more information please call the office: 312-939-5935 and leave a message for Esta or Terry on extension 27 or with Emily on extension 37.

THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT!

The Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago
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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 |

State of the City Luncheon

The annual State of the City Luncheon is the Chicago League's main fund raiser. It will be held on Friday, May 2, 2008 at the Union League Club.

We know you want to make the SOC a great success and you can help in many ways either at home or at the League office. Some of the following jobs that need to be done are:

1. Phone calls
2. Stuffing envelopes
3. Manning the office phone for messages
4. Contacting prospective donors and patrons for the Ad book
5. Helping with putting the Ad Book together

You may make phone calls from the office or from your home, which means you may do items one and four from either place. You will need to come into the office in order to man the office phone for items two, three and five. It may be possible to allot envelopes and material to be stuffed at home as well, so that you do not need to come downtown in the weather of January through March. This gives us three jobs which may be done at home. YOU CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE!

Please contact either Clara Fleming or Bernice Fortini at the League Office, 312-939-5935, ext. 27 or go to www.lwvchicago.org and click on membership.

WE NEED YOU!

The Housing Committee is meeting on a regular basis. Please consider joining in by contacting Lois Snyder.

Next month: Report on Immigration Consensus.

From Helen Gabelnick

This is the item which will be considered at the National Convention in Portland, Oregon.

In June 13th - 17th.

Other levels of League

lwvil

Support the Illinois League (LWVIL) by attending its State of the State Luncheon on Thursday, January 24th at the Union League Club. This is the main fund-raiser for LWVIL. The theme for this year is the *State of the State's Environment*. The keynote speaker is Illinois Attorney General, Lisa Madigan.

The Baxter Healthcare Corporation, represented by Art Gibson, VP of Environment, Health and Safety will be honored with the first Corporate Citizen Award for Environmental Sustainability. The Baxter Healthcare Corporation has taken steps to reduce the environmental impact of its work.

The Citizen of Action Award will be given to Robert Graham, a partner at Jenner & Block. He founded and Chairs Jenner & Block's Environmental, Energy and Natural Resources Law Practice and Co-chairs its Climate and Clean Technology Law Practice.

Register on the website: www.lwvil.org or call the office 939-5935 – ext 37 for an invitation.

LWVUS

National has a NEW Presidential Candidates Voters Guide which now has responses from Democrats: Biden, Clinton, Edwards, Obama and Richards; and Republicans: Giuliani, McCain, Paul Tancredo and Thompson Only Dodd and Romney were invited to participate and chose not to. This can be downloaded in *pdf* from www.VOTE411.org.

Choosing the President 2008 is now available. Cost \$11.00 - may be ordered from LWVUS.

ADVOCACY

LWVUS urge all Leaguers to oppose FISA Amendments Act of 2007 which would unnecessarily authorize broad surveillance of American's international communications.

WHERE DOES PMP GO?

It is used to support many important programs of the national office that serve local and state Leagues and advance League visibility and advocacy work.

Barbara Page Fiske
December 23, 1917 – October 19, 2007

Because Barbara Page Fiske was such an outstanding member of the League of Women voters of Chicago, we are reprinting the obituary from her memorial service held at Montgomery Place on December 10, 2007.

Note: Citizen's Information Service was an outgrowth of LWVChicago.

Life Story: Editor, Volunteer Civic Leader

Barbara Page Fiske edited the **Key to Government in Chicago and Suburban Cook County**, a complete guide to 150 separate agencies. This was just one highlight of her many contributions to civic life. Member of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations for 28 years, she received the Illinois Municipal Human Relations Award in 1982 for outstanding contributions to intergroup relations.

Mrs. Fiske's 55-year career as a volunteer civic leader also included both President and Board Chair of Citizens Information Service, which promoted active, informed participation in civic and community affairs. CIS helped people influence public policy decisions that affect their lives. Its service included youth programs, a hotline, technical and organizational assistance to community organizations and publications. Mrs. Fiske established and chaired its community Education on Law and Justice program, which worked with block groups and community organizations to help people coordinate with the justice system to obtain better service and secure basic rights. The **Key**, published in 1989 (later editions by other editors), highlights people's right to know how to obtain information from government bodies through open meetings, freedom of information, and disclosure of interest. Daughter and grand-daughter of women's suffrage leaders, Mrs. Fiske was also vice – president of both the Chicago and Illinois League of Women Voters companion organizations to CIS.

In the 1950's, Mrs. Fiske co-founded the Cleaner Air Committee, one of the world's first organizations to combat atmospheric pollution and environmental degradation; a resident of the South Side for nearly six decades, she

worked through several organizations to improve community relations and enhance the quality of urban life. She helped establish the Harper Court Foundation, served terms as President and Treasurer, and was Vice-President of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference, and chaired its Parks Committee. She also served a board member of del Hogar del Nino/Cuidar. In 1991, she became a founding resident at Montgomery Place, a retirement community in Hyde Park, where she chaired the library committee, edited its resident newsletter, the *Messenger*, chaired its League of Women Voters unit, and actively participated in its poetry writing group.

Born in New York City, educated at the Branson School in California and Cushing Academy in Massachusetts, she graduated in 1939 from Radcliffe College (then the women's college at Harvard University). With her husband, the late Donald Winslow Fiske, she worked at Station S of the Office of Strategic Service (Precursor to the CIA), tasked to select spies and saboteurs during World War II. Later she was Assistant Editor of two academic journals and writing advisor to her academic husband, son, and daughter.

The Fiskes moved to Hyde Park in 1949, where Donald Fiske was professor of Psychology at the University of Chicago; he died in 2003. Their first child, Cynthia Page Fiske, was born in 1943 and died of leukemia in 1950. They are survived by two children, Alan Page Fiske of Los Angeles, a Professor of anthropology at UCLA and Susan Tufts Fiske, a Professor of Psychology at Princeton University as well as six grandchildren, Gwendolyn, Colin, Zoe, Kai and Wyatt Fiske, and Lydia Fiske Emery, plus two step-grandchildren, Geoffrey, Emery and Vanessa Massey.

Donations to the League *in Memorium*

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fiske
Susan Tufts Fiske
Clara Fleming
Betty Goldiamond
Dorothy Scheff
Evelyn Seidman
Winnie Slusser
Louis Snyder
Elizabeth Spiegel
Ann S. Wolff

Program Planning for LWVUS 2008-2010

One of the most important activities for members of the League of Women Voters is Program Planning. Every year we do this exercise for the two-year cycle for National and County in the even-numbered years and State and Chicago in the odd-numbered ones. Thus it is this year that we again review positions of the National League for submission to them on the first of March for the 2008 Convention..

There has been a change in the process, we no longer must inform LWVUS that we want to keep each position, individually, as it is written but instead have been asked to submit only those we wish to change. There are two kinds of actions which we may propose: one is a **Review** of an existing LWVUS position, the other is a **New Study**.

The **Review** of a position entails a Review Committee (appointed by LWVUS) to examine the position, and, if appropriate, suggest any changes. It is possible that the Review Committee may deem it necessary to have a full-fledged study, and if so, they may make this recommendation.

A **New Study** requires womanpower at all levels of League. It again starts at the National Level with a committee and eventually creates a consensus by all local Leagues. Thus if a New Study is proposed it must have:

- Wide member interest,
- Be timely
- Require government action as the most effective way to address the problem.

LWVUS warns that it may require an increase in money to do such a study, and may require dropping other activities.

The Chicago League of Women Voters will submit its recommendations to LWVUS by March 1st. February's LWVChicago Board meeting is scheduled for the 14th of February. If you are able to return the form given to your Unit by the 9th of February, it would be most helpful. It should require only one meeting to reach consensus. It might help if individuals or small groups would review the general categories of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources or

Social Policies so that they may come to the Unit meeting with recommendations as to what may be necessary to change.

Local Units will provide meeting time for Chicago Leaguers to participate in this most meaningful and ultimately most important work of the League. Without *Program Positions*, no League can act on governmental issues before our Congress, and no Leaguer can know the mind of the LWVUS and can respond to a Call for Action, or act as an individual on issues which (s)he considers important.

At present we have six units. If there is no Unit which you can attend, consider getting a group together with several other Leaguers to discuss the present positions, and decide whether you think we need changes made.

Consensus requires thinking together and exchanging ideas so that the group provides an in depth position. This does not mean a vote, but does mean consideration of the majority opinion and noting any possible minority ideas.

If there is no way you can work together with others to provide consensus please contact Winnie Slusser.

UNIT MEETINGS

Unit 1/5 – Downtown -evening – League Office
Monday January 28th at 5:30 PM
Unit Leader: Margaret Herring

Unit 9/11 – West Side (central)
Sunday, January 27th at 2:00 PM,
Unit Leader: Joan Morton

Unit 21/35 – North Side - Contact: Unit Leader
Bettina Schwartz or
Carol Westerlund

Unit 22 – Downtown - Daytime – League Office
Wednesday, January 16th 10:00 AM – noon
Unit Leader – Bernice Fortini

Unit 41/42 – Southwest Side - day or evening
Contact Betsy Perrine

Unit 66/74 – Hyde Park Area – Day Meeting:
Thursday, January 23rd
Montgomery Place at 1:30 PM.
Unit Leader - Dorothy Scheff

Other dates for the year.

Saturday, February 16th – Briefing on Health Care

Saturday, February 23rd – LWWIL Issues Briefing

Saturday, March 1st - Briefing on Con-Con

Saturday, March 15th – Social Policy Briefing Prep. For State of the City tba

Friday May 2nd – State of the City Luncheon

Saturday, May 17th – Education Briefing

Monday, May 19th – Cook County League Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 7th - Annual Meeting for the Chicago League

June 13th -17th – LWWUS Convention in Portland, Oregon.

In February, March, April, and May there will be Committee meetings for Education, Housing, and other issues. These dates will be finalized by the next Chicago League Board meeting on the 14th of January.

We will keep you informed of our action.

League of Women Voters of Chicago
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Education Committee

Those interested in the Education Committee need to be ready to gear up for the planned update of the position in the Chicago League's Where We Stand. Copies of the old positions are available and those interested are asked to review them before the meeting which will be planned for early February. Please let Winnie Slusser know what time you would like to meet – day or evening, weekdays or Saturday. We will try to schedule meetings at various times so that those interested may participate as fully as possible.

Some issues to be looked at: the effect of NCLB on Chicago's schools – the impact of the testing on learning experiences; Renaissance 2010 and its push for small schools (especially for the high schools); the problem of demographics and underutilized schools. We will have to choose a focus to begin with and plan on expansion if needed.