

The Chicago Voter

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

March 2008
Vol. 58. No. 7



Dates To Remember

Meetings held at the
League Office
Unless otherwise
Noted

To check on committee
meetings- call the office.

Saturday, March 15th
Briefing Session
Housing Crisis
1-:00 am – 12:00 noon

Education committee
Call Winnie Slusser

Thursday, March 20th
SOC – Development
Committee
2:00 pm

Friday, March 27th
SOC – Development
Committee 2:00 pm

Monday, April 1st
Executive Committee
Call of the President

Housing Committee
10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Friday, April 5th
SOC – Development
Committee – 2:00 pm

Monday, April 8th
Board of Directors
Meeting – 5:45 pm

April Activity
Prepare for the State
of the City Luncheon

President's Column

Now that the Primary Election is over, we are thinking about the General Election in November. I hope that all who participated in the Pollwatching Project enjoyed themselves and gained some insight into the process. Please join us again in the fall. And those who did not participate this time, consider doing so in the fall. You may have noticed that there is a need for judges. Think about becoming one. We will probably sponsor some campaign forums. Look elsewhere in this issue for information about becoming a moderator for a forum. Also see information on being a Deputy Registrar.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 21st, a Saturday morning at the Union League Club. This will be a week after the LWVUS Convention, so there will be much to discuss. We will vote for our officers, directors for the board and nominating committee members. An application is in this **Voter** and will be on-line as well. The Board of Directors meets ten times a year, generally on the second Monday of the month at 5:45 pm. A Board member should be involved in membership or development, and should be willing to chair an issue to study if needed. All Board members are expected to do Voter Service. Of course we all pitch in and help one another.

Units should be having meetings about the Constitution Convention during March. The article on this issue was in the February Voter. The results of the consensus will be due in April. Other topics covered in Briefings in February and March are Health Care and Housing. In addition a consensus on Juvenile Justice is being sought by the Cook County League.

Please remember that our major fund-raiser, the State of the City luncheon will take place on May 2nd. This year's topic is about urban transit. There is a "heads-up" about it in this issue.

I hope to see you at some meetings or around the office.

Intra-office Move

We have made an intra-office move into what was the Cook County Office down the corridor from our former home. This has necessitated changing our Extension to 28. So, if you call the office - it is 312-939-5935, Ext. 28.

Elections

Moderating a Forum

The Illinois League will be hosting two moderator training sessions, one this spring and one in late August. Please let Kathi Graffam, Voter Service Chair for LWVIL know if you are interested.

Give her the following information:

Name:

Local League

E-mail address

Phone number

Preference for spring or August.

Being a Deputy Registrar

In order to be a Deputy Registrar, you must take the training given by the Community Services Division of the Board of Election Commissioners. This request must come from an organization. Terry Williams, 312-842-4695, is the person responsible for this activity for the Chicago League. If you are interested, call her and arrange to take a particular session as listed below. Please give her more than one choice as a session may be cancelled if the number signing up is low, You must be on the list, to take the training.

All training will be conducted in the 8th floor conference room of 69 West Washington.

March 2008

Wednesday, March 12th – 3:00 pm

Saturday, March 22nd – 9:30 am

Thursday March 27th – 6:00 pm

April 2008

Wednesday April 9th – 3:00 pm

Thursday, April 17th – 6:00 pm

Saturday, April 26th – 9:30 am

May 2008

Wednesday, May 7th 3:00 pm

Thursday, May 15th – 6:00 pm

Saturday, May 24th – 9:30 am

June 2008

Wednesday, June 11th – 3:00 pm

Thursday, June 19th – 6:00 pm

Saturday, June 28th – 9:30 am.

Building a Board

We are always interested in cultivating new Board members. Do you know someone who is concerned about social, governmental, or environmental issues? We are looking for candidates with a background in education, social work, health care, law, government, international relations, etc., with experience in small business, corporate work, volunteer work; all or none of the above --- still working or retired

We would expect the individual to be willing to work on a not-for-profit board and have the time to become involved in administrative activities, including development (e.g. the State of the City), membership or being an officer. Issue orientation can be in the fields of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy – all areas where LWV acts from its positions.

Commitment to the Chicago League Board includes attendance at approximately ten board meetings per year, if an officer additional executive committee meetings. All Board members are expected to work on an administrative committee and be involved in the issues which are paramount to League work. This would include further meetings/ briefings/ and general meetings.

A non-League person is welcome to apply with the understanding that (s)he would join the organization, learn about it, and attend meetings. *The Chicago League of Women Voters Bylaws* state that missing three regular Board meetings (not committee meetings or the like) without prior excuse, is the same as a resignation.

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

March Issues

Meetings may be held on the following issues at the March Unit meetings.

ConCon

LWVIL (The League of Women Voters of Illinois) asks that we reach consensus on whether or not to have a Constitutional Convention for the State of Illinois. This question will be on the ballot in the November Election, 2008, as required by law. Briefing Sessions have been held on this issue.

Juvenile Justice

Briefing Sessions both in Chicago and the suburbs have been held to prepare us to adopt an updated position on Juvenile Justice for Cook County.

March Briefing – Housing Crisis

This country is experiencing a crisis in housing. We hear this lament daily on radio and see it on TV – people are losing their homes and receiving a triple whammy with lower home values, rising food prices, as well as the threat of a recession. However, these people have homes to lose. There is a large portion of our nation designated as LOW INCOME AND VERY LOW INCOME people who don't have a home to lose. They can't find housing that they can afford, at all.

On March 15th from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the League Conference Room at 332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1150, two experts in this area will be discussing the HOUSING CRISIS in our nation. Kate Walz from the Shriver Center on Poverty Law is an expert on the Chicago scene, and Bob Palmer, Housing Action Illinois, expert on the state scene. If you want the latest housing information, both local and beyond, you can't afford to miss this event.

Since the briefing will take place on a Saturday, we need to turn in a list of those planning to attend, so please let me know if you plan to be participate.

See you there!

Lois Snyder

Meet Rekia

Rekia Carothers has agreed to be our intern for the Spring Quarter, February 19th to April 26th. She is a senior at Robert Morris College, a neighbor, just down the block and around the corner, and will receive college credit for her work with us. Management is her major and she has almost three years experience working at Citigroup Chicago.

Rekia has agreed to extend her time with us for several weeks after graduation until the State of the City work has been completed. She will be assisting us with office work for the State of the City – answering phones, opening mail, copying material, helping with mailings and a multitude of other things. If you hear a pleasant, strange voice answering the phone, it probably will be Rekia. She will work Mondays: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Wednesdays: 10:30 am – 1:30 pm, and Thursday: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Come in and say hello.

UNIT MEETINGS

Most of these meetings will be reaching consensus on the Constitutional Convention question and/or the Juvenile Justice Position.

Unit 1/5 – Downtown -evening – League Office
March 24th at 5:30 PM
Unit Leader: Margaret Herring

Unit 9/11 – West Side (central) - Contact
Unit Leader: Joan Morton

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

Unit 22 – Downtown - Daytime – League Office
Wednesday, March 12th - 10:00 AM – noon
Unit Leader – Bernice Fortini

Unit 41/42 – Southwest Side
Contact Betsy Perrine

Unit 66/74 – Hyde Park Area – Day Meeting:
Thursday, March 20th
Montgomery Place at 1:30 PM.
Unit Leader - Dorothy Scheff

Board Elections are Coming

March Call for Nominations

At the Annual Meeting in June, members of the Chicago League will elect Officers, members of the Board of Directors and the chair and two members of the Nominating Committee. The Offices that are to be filled are the president (two-year term), and at least two vice presidents (each for a two-year term), at least four and no more than six board members for two-year terms, plus up to two board members for a one-year term. The chair and two members of the Nominating Committee are elected for a one-year term. On the back of this article is the Application Form for recommendations for any and all of these positions. You may nominate as many people as you wish, but please give the Nominating Committee all of the pertinent information on each. Also, please have the consent of the nominee before you send in such a request.

The president presides at all meeting of the membership and the Board of Directors. The president is *ex-officio* a member of all committees except the nominating committee. She oversees the administration and activities of the Chicago League.

The vice-presidents carry out duties as assigned by the president and/or the board of directors. In the absence of the president, a vice-president chairs meetings. The vice-presidents are members of the executive committee together with the president, secretary and treasurer.

Members of the Board of Directors represent the Chicago League in coalitions. The whole Board plans programs and action. Board members carry out administrative responsibilities and make certain that all League Issues are kept up-to-date, so that League members can act upon them when requested.

This is a working board. Board members are expected to attend the Annual Meeting and Board meetings in person (although contact by phone is permitted for board and executive committee meetings), members are asked to participate in Board and League activities, committees, briefings and special projects or events. Members who accumulate three

unexcused absences from Board meetings will be considered to have resigned from the Board and will be dropped. If a member is to be absent, (s)he must contact the president, secretary or the office to note her excused absence prior to the meeting which will be missed.

Areas of activity include Membership, Development/Fundraising, Communication Committee (including the Voter), Website and media contacts, Voters Service. and Unit Leader; All Board members are expected to involve themselves with these activities. Individuals follow League issues: Health Care, Education, Fiscal Policy, Housing, International Relations, etc. to keep the membership informed. In addition our Board needs observers at City Council, the Board of Education and other city agencies. It is not necessary to be a Board member to be an observer of one of the governmental bodies or to be responsible for a League Issue..

The Nominating Committee notifies members of openings for offices and the board positions. They recruit nominees, inform nominees of the responsibilities of an office and present a slate of nominees to all members thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting. Members may nominate candidates from the floor at that meeting, assuming the consent of the nominee has been obtained. After nominations close, elections are held.. Elected members of the Nominating Committee are not members of the Board and are not required to attend Board meetings.

LWVChicago Board meetings are open to members of the LWVChicago. If you want to see what we do, just call Esta, our president, at 312-664-0309 and let her know that you are coming. The Board welcomes you.

Officers and members of the Board of Directors, whose terms expire at the annual meeting in 2008 include: Esta Kallen, President; Margaret Herring and Pamela Stauffer, Vice-presidents; and Helen Gabelnick, Winnie Slusser, Lois Snyder and Terry Williams, members of the Board. They are all eligible for re-nomination.

The Nominating Committee
Millie Juskevics – Chair
Margaret Goldstein and Janet Tarsitano – members
Margaret Herring and Pamela Stauffer – Board members

Application for the LWVChicago Board or Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee of the League of Women Voters of Chicago is in the process of identifying Members for the Board and Nominating Committee positions.

This is a working board. Board members are expected to attend the Annual Meeting and all Board meetings in person, asked to participate in Board and League activities, committees, briefings and special projects or events. Members who accumulate three unexcused absences to Board meetings will be considered to have resigned from the Board and will be dropped.

If you would like to make a nomination to the Board or the Nominating Committee, please complete the form below and notify the person whom you have nominated, ask for their acceptance of the nomination. If this is of interest to you, nominate yourself!

For President there is one (1) vacancy for a two (2) year term
For Vice President there are at least two (2) vacancies for a two (2) year term
For Board members there are four (4) to six (6) vacancies with two (2) years terms
For Board members there are up to two (2) vacancies for one (1) year term.
For the Nominating Committee three (3) positions for a one (1) year term.

For (position) _____

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____ Fax _____

- What special background/experience will the Applicant bring to the Board or Nominating Committee?
- Why will the Applicant make an effective Board or Nominating Committee Member?
- How will the applicant's leadership style contribute to the management of the Chicago League's activities?
- What areas of special interest on the Board would the Applicant choose?

ALL BOARD MEMBERS are expected to be involved in

- Membership
- Development/fundraising (State of the City luncheon, other)
- Voter Service

Board members may select to be involved in at least one of the below:

- League Issues (Health Care, Education, Fiscal Policy, Housing, etc.)
- Observers at City Council, Board of Education and other city agencies.
- Communications Community Outreach (the **Voter**, website, media contacts)

Person completing form _____ contact information _____

Submissions are due by Monday, April 7th, so that interviews may take place and a slate be ready for the May Voter. Please mail to: LWVChicago, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60604. FAX 312 939-6887, E-mail info@LWVChicago.org.