



Area

VOTER

August, 2010

From the Editor

As you know, I served as interim editor of this newsletter over the course of this summer. Thanks to one and all for the many kind words, as well as your steadfast encouragement. I appreciated the opportunity to serve in a way that was a good fit with what I am able to do.

The time has come to pass the torch to the new editor of the Voter. Please welcome [Wendy Covich!](#) Wendy has a background in both journalism and graphic design. She brings a terrific new energy not only to this publication, but to the entire chapter of our League.

This is a good time to mention some topics that Wendy will be covering over the next several months. Many terrific programs were approved at the July 27 program planning meeting:

1. Monitor the City of Elgin's efforts to be sustainable. We will also co-sponsor and work on the global 10-10-10 event spearheaded by [350.org](#). With guidance from the Elgin Community Garden Network, and partnering with Elgin Climate Change Organization (ECCO), we will plant garlic and improve trail conditions at Hawthorn Hill Nature Center on this day.

2. LWVEA and the YWCA will conduct a workshop on Running for Public Office: A Woman's Focus at the YWCA on six consecutive Wednesdays starting on January 19, 2011. Loni Mecum, Sigi Psimenos, Wendy Covich, and Dr.

Tana Durnbaugh are working on this project.

3. The Mental Health Committee, composed of Darlene Bakk, Myra Becker, Sandy Kaptain, and Betsy Thrasher, will be working on the mental health/geriatric housing issue. Problems have been reported at three area nursing homes: Maplewood, S. Elgin Rehab., and Asta House.

4. Myra Becker, Sandy Kaptain, Ann Schneck, and Donna Askins will survey LWVEA members on energy and climate change. This may take the form of one of the carbon footprint measures already identified by the LWV-US.

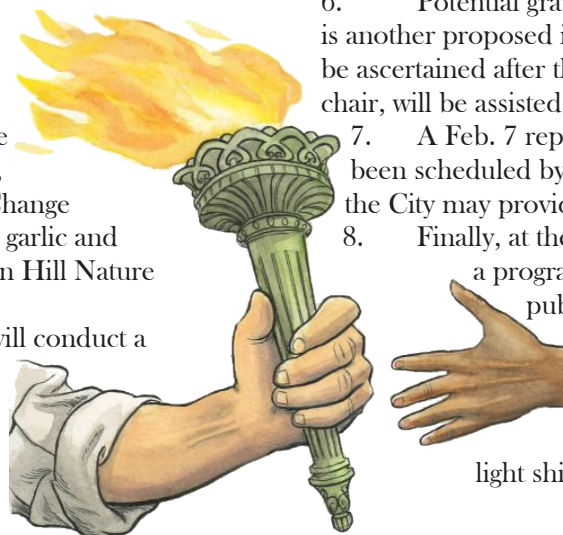
5. Under consideration is a study of whether a new Senior Center is needed for Elgin. This effort will be chaired by Janet Poyner.

6. Potential gravel mining on the Brunner property is another proposed issue. Whether a study is needed will be ascertained after the November elections. Carol Grom, chair, will be assisted by Sigi Psimenos and Darlene Bakk.

7. A Feb. 7 report on the use of Elgin impact fees has been scheduled by Janet Poyner. Loni Mecum believes the City may provide this information easily.

8. Finally, at the federal level, we may be developing a program regarding the Federal role in public education. Sigi Psimenos, Dennis Schwank, and Laurel Bault will assist.

The torch of democratic justice is alight, but all hands are needed to hold it high. Get involved. Let our light shine!



In League,
Donna Askins

Know Your Elections Calendar

Last Day

to

Register

to

Vote

Tue, Oct 5,
2010

Grace Period
Registration

Wed, Oct 6,
2010



Tue, Oct 26,
2010

Early Voting Period

Mon, Oct 11,
2010



Thu, Oct 28, 2010

Absentee Voting
Period

Thu, Sep 23, 2010



Mon, Nov 1, 2010

GENERAL
ELECTION

TUE, NOV 2,
2010

Climate Change Challenge Questions

Here are a few climate change questions (4 multiple choice and one T/F). Answers are upside down at the bottom (no peeking!). Have YOU found out some new info you'd like to share with us on climate change? Send to S. Kaptain at sakaptain@gmail .com and I will use in future Challenges!

1. Which of the following energy sources is NOT a source of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions:

- a. diesel fuel
- b. natural gas
- c. gasoline
- d. nuclear power

2. How long does CO₂ stay in the upper atmosphere?

- a. 2 weeks
- b. 10 years
- c. 25 years
- d. 100-200 years or more

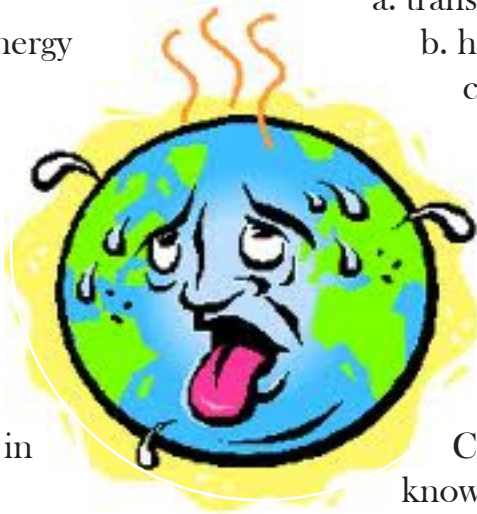
3. Which is the target level the top climate change scientists are recommending to protect us from too much climate change?

- a. 100 ppm (part per million)
- b. 350 ppm
- c. 390 ppm
- d. 450 ppm

4. Which is the greatest source of CO₂ emissions?

- a. transportation
- b. housing
- c. greenhouses
- d. lawnmowers

5. (T/F) When heating water, it is better to boil it slowly on the stove than to heat it in the microwave.



Check and see how you did! Let me know if you have questions to pose! Stay cool the rest of the summer—but don't “freeze”! We can all cut 10-30% without even noticing it—unless you already have cut 30%! Hurray for you! Greenies will rule! Be a Green Hero(ine).

— Sandy Kaptain

Elgin Area LWV to Conduct Study of Potential Gravel Mining on Brunner Forest Preserve

The Elgin Area LWV is organizing a local issues study of potential gravel mining on the Brunner property of the Kane County Forest Preserve. A preliminary meeting to outline the scope and direction of the study will be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 25, 2010 at the home of [Carol Grom](#), who will serve as chairman. Please call or e-mail if you are interested or need directions.

—Carol Grom

Answers: 1. d, 2. d, 3. b, 4. b, 5. F

Immigration Reform

On Tuesday, August 31, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. the League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area will host an informational program for



members regarding
Comprehensive

Immigration Reform and what role we can play in support of the national and state Leagues of Women Voters' positions regarding this very important issue. The presentation will focus on the current legislative status of Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The need for local grass roots action will be reviewed and encouraged.

This will include a request for the Elgin LWV to consider its own local response consistent with the positions taken by the national and state LWV.

Royce Blackwell and Shirley Sadjadi, members of the Elgin Ad Hoc Committee for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, will talk about the current status of immigration reform legislation in Congress, personal examples of inequities in the current law, and strategies to show support for change. A Question and Answer session will be included.

The program will be at Tyler Towers Clubhouse, 1450 Plymouth Lane, Elgin, Illinois. The clubhouse is a single-story building behind Tyler Towers.

All are invited to attend and learn more about this important issue which affects citizens as well as immigrants. For further information, contact [Loni Mecum](#).

Financial News

As of the end of July, we have a total of 71 paid members: 48 individuals, 11 couples and 1 student. In addition to dues paid, we have received donations from members totaling \$310. And, members raised a net \$115 during 'Together We're Elgin.' The Annual LWVIL Phonathon brought us \$69. We welcome your ideas for helping us raise additional money.

Some of you may recall that the Carpentersville-Dundee LWV quoted a figure of \$3,000 that would remain of their funds upon

their eventual dissolution and merger with us. After they paid their state and national dues and other expenses, there actually remained \$1825. Their account is now closed and that money is in a savings account along with our funds at the Kane County Teachers Credit Union. This money will help us continue Voter Services programs in Dundee and Rutland Townships.



*BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 18
7 p.m.
Tyler Towers Clubhouse*

—Dennis Schwank, Treasurer

Speak Out

★ **Be Heard** ★

Governmental Forum On Social Service Issues

Date: Thursday, September 16, 2010

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: Christ Community Church
37W100 Bolcum Road (off Randall Road)
St. Charles, IL 60175 (Facility ADA accessible)

Featuring:

Updates on local service needs and concerns

Opportunity to state your position on social service issues

Speak directly to officials and candidates for state, Kane County Board, city, village, and township public offices

Please RSVP to Gina Richter

847-515-8998 or ginar_30@sbcglobal.net

*If you'd like to have your question asked to the local and state officials please e-mail it to ginar_30@sbcglobal.net

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The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through citizen education and advocacy.

* * *

The League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area invites you to become a member of this active, grass roots oriented organization. Individual membership is \$60; add \$30 for each additional member at the same address.

Student membership is \$30.

Please send this coupon with your check payable to:
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**The Elgin Area League thanks our
2009-2010 Patrons for their support**



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