



Area

V O T E R

May, 2010

From Our President

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” – *Winston Churchill*

Dearest Members & Welcome Newest Members from Carpentersville/Dundee,

A change is afoot, yes it is, so let's keep changing and revitalizing ourselves. “We can't expect to meet the challenges of today with yesterday's tools and expect to be in business tomorrow.” We, you and I, are all very busy... whether it's working all day, taking care of the family, or involved with other groups and organizations which makes it impossible to attend meetings or programs. As we move forward, let's figure out a way to meld our interests, and help you help us.

Please take a look at the committees and programs listed in this newsletter, see where your interests lie, and let me know how you'd like to participate. There's something here for everyone; if you don't see what you're looking for, let me know what it is, and we'll make it happen. You might only be able to give an hour of your time, but sometimes that's all that's needed. We are all small cadres in the grand scheme of things, but one mighty force of change together.

Looking forward to serving you,

Sigi

2010-2011 PROGRAMS

- Continue to monitor and to participate in the City of Elgin's efforts to become a Sustainable Community. To include the Community Garden Project: Covered areas are covered with chairs listed below. NOTE: Sigi Psimenos will participate in Outreach working group; Dennis Schwank will participate in the Transportation working group; Janet Poyner will participate in the Recycling and Waste Management working group; Wendy Covich will participate in Alternative Energy working group; Donna Askins will facilitate Community Garden Project
- Conduct training workshop on running for public office in cooperation with the Elgin YWCA. Loni Mecum, Chair
- Continue to monitor selected mental health issues outlined in the 2007 LWV Kane County-wide Study: Myra Becker, Chair
- Conduct a survey of our own members on their level of participation and the effectiveness of the energy and environmental information. And to use this data: Donna Askins and Myra Becker will Co-Chair. Donna will be the "Data Engineer" (Setup web survey and summarize the data)
- Study whether Elgin should have a new Senior Center: Janet Poyner, Chair
- Study potential gravel mining on the Brunner property Kane County Forest Preserve: Bonnie Kalaway will ask for a Chair
- Study the City of Elgin's use of impact fees: Janet Poyner, Chair
- Conducting Mock Elections in three high schools: Laurel Bault, Chair

Is
Elgin
sustainable?
Let's find out.

2010-2011 LWVEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sigi Psimenos, President *

Loni Mecum, Vice President *

Janet Poyner, Vice President

John Bordsen, Secretary *

Dennis Schwank, Treasurer *

Donna Askins, Board Member

Sandy Kaptain, Board Member

Myra Becker *, Board Member

Wendy Covich *, Board Member

Bonnie Kalaway (Appointed)

* Denotes Newly Elected

We anticipate appointing 4 additional Board Members at the next meeting. The Board is open to changing the monthly meeting to better accommodate your schedule.

FAQs: Learn Your League!

Q. What is the Voter Guide?

A. The LWV provides non-partisan information about candidates and proposals. Each candidate is given an opportunity to provide biographical information and to answer a number of questions on issues important to the office being sought.

Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited, except for necessary cutting when replies exceeded the stated word limitations. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for inclusion, the words “Did not reply in time for inclusion” appear after the candidate’s name. When a candidate exceeded the word limit, the answer is ended with an ellipsis (...).

The inclusion of these statements and opinions of candidates is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the LWV. The League takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts stated by the candidates.

Q. What is Sunshine Week?

A. Sunshine Week is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include print, broadcast and online news media, civic groups, libraries, nonprofits, schools and others interested in the public’s right to know. Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger.

Sunshine Week is a nonpartisan initiative whose supporters are conservative, liberal and everything in between.

MEMBER SERVICES

Committee Liaison: Janet Poyner, Chair

Finance/Fundraising: Dennis Schwank, Chair

Membership: Janet Poyner, Chair

Observer Corps: Laurel Bault & Sigi Psimenos

Precinct Coordinator: Mark McGinnis

Public Relations: Sigi Psimenos and Donna Askins, Co-Chairs

Special Events: Dodie Williams

Telephone: Phyllis Grzywinski, Chair

Voter Newsletter: Donna Askins and Wendy Kovich

Voter Guide: Chair to be determined

Voter Services: Chair to be determined

Voter Registration: Bonnie Schwank



LWVUS CONVENTION IN ATLANTA

We encourage all members to attend State and National Conventions if they can. This years national is in Atlanta from Saturday June 12- Tuesday June 15th. We will pay for your registration (\$295), and your hotel room-double occupancy. Myra Becker said she wold like to go, but not alone. So please [take a look](#), and if you're interested or have any questions, please contact Myra at 847-741-2780.

McCormick Freedom Project

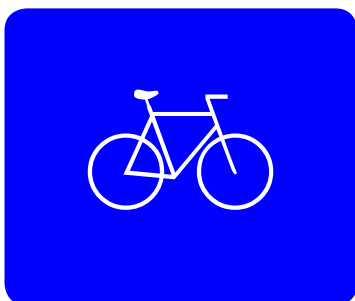
Local history buffs may be familiar with Col. Robert R. McCormick, famous for his long-time leadership of the Chicago Tribune and his service in the Army's 1st Infantry Division. A controversial figure, this newspaper baron was known for being politically outspoken. Today, his legacy is the [McCormick Freedom Project](#), established to help citizens, especially students, recognize the value of the freedoms we enjoy in this country, with particular emphasis on First Amendment rights.

“But what does this have to do with the League of Women Voters?” you ask. The great news is that the League of Women Voters will be working with area high schools to run mock elections. The League is the recipient of a grant from the McCormick Freedom Project to make this happen.

To learn more about the foundation, please take a few moments to visit their [website](#). It has a wealth of information about being engaged, informed citizens - their site even encourages people to look to the League of Women Voters for unbiased information about candidates! They also have an “[Effective Citizen](#)” quiz, so you can see if you measure up.

On the Path

Have you had a chance to walk or ride on any part of our Adopted Bike Trail? If so, please contact Ann Schneck and report the date you were there, and any observations or comments regarding the current conditions. Ann will relay the information to the Kane County Forest Preserve.



STANDING COMMITTEES

Action (Time for Action):
Chair to be determined

Climate Change: Sandy Kaptain, Chair

Dundee Rutland Township:
Bonnie Kalaway, Chair

Education: Laurel Bault

Healthcare: Dr. Tana Durnbaugh
and Debbie Miller, Co-Chairs

International Relations: Janet Poyner, Chair

Mental Health: Myra Becker

Parks & Open Spaces: Ann Schneck

Mark Your Calendar

MAY 20

Community Forum:

What Does National Security Mean in the 21st Century?

Gail Borden Public Library
(see below)

June 2

LWV-IL

State of the State Luncheon

Union League Club

June 11-14

LWVUS

National Convention

Atlanta, Georgia
(see page 3)

TBD

Board Orientation Class

with

LWVIL

May 29

Harvest for the Hungry
39W830 Highland Avenue
2:00 p.m.
(see below)

June 7

Board Meeting
Tyler Towers Clubhouse
7:00 p.m.
date may change—
watch your email!



Harvest for the Hungry

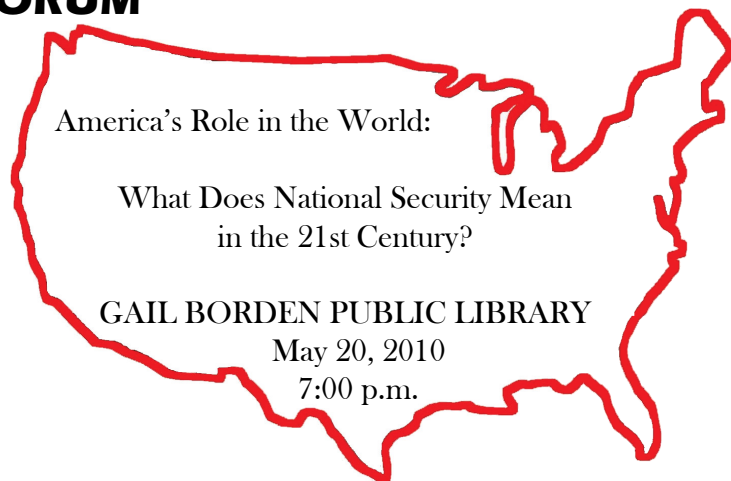
The League of Women Voters - Elgin Area supports the Elgin Community Garden Network, whose two-fold mission is to teach sustainable skills and to feed the hungry.

On May 29 at 2:00 p.m., meet at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin to harvest 64 square feet of lettuce and spinach. Drivers will be needed to help deliver the produce to Elgin's food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens. Contact [Donna Askins](#).

DELIBERATIVE COMMUNITY FORUM

The National Issues Forum has released new materials on the timely topic of national security. Accordingly, the League of Women Voters - Elgin Area will host an open community forum on May 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gail Borden Public Library.

The Forum will be presented by our International Committee and moderated by Dennis Bulat and Janet Poyner. Copies of the issue book with questionnaires, and copies of the issue map, will be available at the event.



Beware The Neon Envelope!

Try to get your membership fee in by the end of this month. The dues were increased at the Annual Meeting: Individual: \$60.00; Household: \$90.00; Full-time Student: \$30.00 Send check to LWVEA, 569 Franklin Blvd., Elgin, IL. 60120. Beware the neon envelope!

–Janet Poyner, Membership Chair

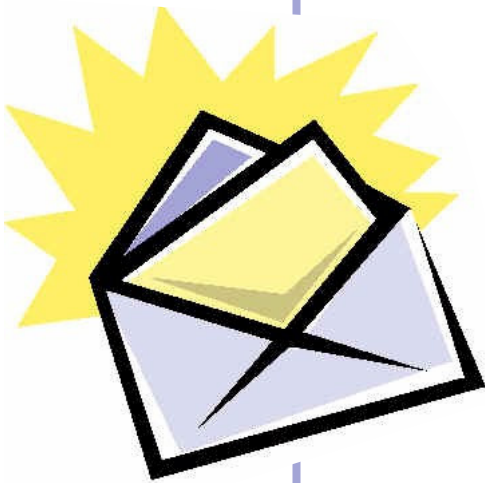
2010 – 2011 RECEIVED CHECKS

Honorary Members (no charge):

M. Becker		\$100.00
A. Schneck		
S. Simon		
D. Yeoman		

C. Blohm	#11396	\$60.00
K. Gamble	1147	60.00
J. Jindra (Poyner chk)		
D. & S. Kaptain	2397	90.00
R. Nauman	1950	60.00
K. Nelson	5105	100.00
J. Poyner	6525	120.00
M. Schmoltdt	1271	60.00
B. & D. Schwank	4418	100.00
B. Thrasher	5997	75.00
F. Blake	3969	60.00
C. Carlsen	3779	60.00
C. Grom	7930	60.00
C. Hamil	9676	60.00
G. Matthews	4668	60.00
K. Tennis	3116	60.00
B. Kalaway/ T. Peterson/ C. Schoengart	5541	180.00
W. Covich/M. Hoambrecker	201	90.00
S. Psimenos/A. Pedote		200.00

as of May 5, 2010



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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:
LWVEA, 569 Franklin Blvd., Elgin, IL 60120

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<p><i>Villa Verone</i></p> <p>Ristorante Italiano</p> <p>Tuesday thru Thursday 11am-9pm Friday 11am-10pm Saturday 4pm-10pm Sunday 4pm-9pm</p> <p>13 Douglas Avenue Elgin, IL 60120 847.742.0263 www.villaverone.net</p>	<p><i>Red Bar Winery & Bistro</i></p> <p>Your New Favorite Downtown Destination Come join us for dinner or just to say hello</p> <p>74 S. Grove Ave. Elgin, IL 60120 Phone (847) 695-1659 E-mail: redbarwinery@tbc.net Visit us at our website: redbarwinery.com</p>
<p>BMW MoneyWorks <i>Building & Monitoring Wealth</i></p> <p>Barbara M. White, CFP®</p> <p>T: 847.867.3078 F: 847.220.9296 E: Barb@bmwmoneyworks.com www.bmwmoneyworks.com 221 Course Drive – Lake in the Hills, IL 60156</p>	<p>ENTERTAINER • SINGER • GUITARIST</p> <p>Steve Askins</p> <p>P.O. Box 5204, Elgin, IL 60121 PHONE: 847-695-7072 • FAX: 847-741-3124 steve@steveaskins.com • www.steveaskins.com</p>

**The Elgin Area League thanks our
2009-2010 Patrons for their support**



**League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area
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