



Area

VOTER

January 2011

President's Corner

Sigi Psimenos

Greetings! I hope you enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to healthy, and rewarding New Year!

By all accounts our **Holiday Dinner** at the Anvil Club with Mike Alft was a huge success. A big "thank you" to **Dodie Williams** for organizing this wonderful event and our Board for the fine selection!

A huge "thank you" to **Sandy Kaptain** for organizing our collaboration with ECCO & the Issak Walton League in the **presentation of the film Fuel**, at the library on the 16th.

Kudos also to **Myra Becker & Darlene Bakk** and the members of the **Mental Health Committee**, for your ongoing research. We appreciate everything you're trying to shed light on.

What's going on in the LWVEA right now? Let's start with our New Study:

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Article to submit for next month's Voter?

E-mail it to Wendy Covich at w.covich@dla-ltd.com and include Voter in the subject line.

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Elgin City Council-Election Method: On January 10th, we held the first of which will become many community discussions. With well over 100 community members in attendance, [Sean Stegall](#) & [Jerry Turnquist](#) educated and informed us as to Elgin's past and present government, and what the addition of 2 council seats will mean. At our Board meeting last week, we formally adopted the scope of this study which is:

What is the best system for electing members to the Elgin City Council.

This study will examine the pros and cons of

- council at-large;
- ward council system;
- modified/mixed ward system; or
- any other system.

At the completion of the study, consensus questions will be formulated, and designed for general agreement on the concepts and allow for league action.

[Wendy Covich](#) will Chair this committee and we already have several members of the community that would like to take part, but could use your more leaguers involved in this very important project. Can we count on you? Simply [contact Wendy](#).

How to Run for Public Office-A Woman's Focus: We've been working with the YWCA to implement this important 4 part program which will start in September. We could still use help with sponsors and donations for this project, so if you can help in either regard, please [contact Loni Mecum](#).

Candidate Forums: A total of 7 Candidate Forums will be held in March (see [Page 3](#)). What questions would you ask these candidates? You may send them to me at any time before March 1st. Volunteers are also needed the day of the forums. Please contact me if you are able to help. We need moderators, timers, greeters, people to work at a membership table, ushers, and question sorters, just to name a few. There are also some jobs that can be completed beforehand such as making name tags or shopping for supplies.

Local & State Program Planning: Yes, it's that time of the year again! We'll be meeting at [Myra Becker's](#) home on February 8th @ 6:30 PM to discuss programs we'd like to see continued, or newly implemented following our Annual Meeting (April 28th). We'll also discuss programs recommended by [LWVIL](#), in preparation for the **June Convention** being held in Skokie this year.

Goodness knows we have a lot going on this year, and we, as an organization, are only as good as the sum of our parts. And we have some darn fine parts-YOU! But we need you to become more involved, even if that means just from the sanctity of your living room. Yes, we have projects you can help with without leaving the house. You just need to let us know you're there...so call me, or email me, and let me know.

In league,
[Sigi](#)



Upcoming Candidate Forums

Save the date!



LWV of the Elgin Area created an event.



Candidate Forum U-46 & ECC Board of Trustees

Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 2:00pm
Gail Borden Library, Elgin, IL

19 hours ago · Like · Comment · Share · RSVP to this event

Sunday, March 20, 2011 @ 2:00-4:30PM @ GBPL

U-46 Board of Education -Trustees

Amy Kerber
Maria Bidelman
Gary Percy
Traci O'Neal Ellis
Jennifer Schroder
Mary VanSlyck
ECC Board of Trustees
John G. Dalton
John Duffy
L. Robert Russell
Eleanor MacKinney
Richard Geary
Robin Libboa



LWV of the Elgin Area created an event.



Candidate Forum: City of Elgin Mayoral & Gail Borden Library Board Trustees

Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 6:30pm
Gail Borden Library, Elgin, IL

19 hours ago · Like · Comment · Share · RSVP to this event

Thursday, March 24, 2011 @ 6:30-8:30PM @ GBPL

Gail Borden Public Library Board Trustee

4-Year

Jean Bednar
Herbert Gross
Lisa Knight
Victor LaPorte
Richard McCarthy
Verner Tepe
Richard Wallett

2-Year

Mohammad Iqbal
Margaret Watts
Peggy Wegman



LWV of the Elgin Area created an event.



Candidate Forum: City of Elgin Mayoral & Gail Borden Library Board Trustees

Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 6:30pm
Gail Borden Library, Elgin, IL

19 hours ago · Like · Comment · Share · RSVP to this event

Thursday, March 24, 2011 @ 6:30-8:30PM @ GBPL

City of Elgin-Mayoral

Ed Shock
David Kaptain



LWV of the Elgin Area created an event.



Candidate Forum: City of Elgin City Council

Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at 6:30pm
Gail Borden Library, Elgin, IL

19 hours ago · Like · Comment · Share · RSVP to this event

Tuesday, March 29, 2011 6:30-8:30PM @GBPL

City of Elgin-City Council

Michael Warren
F. John Steffen
Thomas L. McCarthy
Toby Shaw
Anna Moeller
Manfred W. Czymmek
Michael J. Robbins
Michael Curtin
Shane Nowak
Tish Powell

There are no contests in Sleepy Hollow, West Dundee, the Dundee Park District and the Dundee Library District.

Tuesday, March 15 @ 7PM East Dundee's village hall

Wednesday, March 16 @7PM in Carpentersville's village hall

Thursday, March 17@7PM in Gilberts' village hall

Saturday, March 12, @9AM @ Dundee Park District Senior Center

District #300 & 509 School Board

LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing

Saturday, February 5, 2011 in Chicago

A group from the Elgin League is planning to attend this year's **Issues Briefing**. It's a great way to find out about some of the prominent issues as well as to meet Leaguers from across the state and enjoy a day of intelligent conversation. Complete details and registration material came

in the recent Illinois Voter but you can also read about it at http://lwvil.org/resources_issuesbriefing.asp and register at <http://lwvil.org/tickets11.asp>

If you would like to join the Elgin carpool/trainpool, please contact **Loni Mecum**.



November 30, 2010

Dear League Leaders,

As you may have read or heard the League of Women Voters of Illinois came under attack. The LWV of Lake County held a forum for the 8th Congressional District, which was cosponsored by Grayslake Central High School. During this forum there was a disruption from audience members demanding that the Pledge of Allegiance be recited. After most in the audience stood and said the Pledge, the Moderator tried to re-gain control. Many unfavorable blog articles were written about the Moderator, and the League and League was featured on Inside Edition and the Glen Beck Show.

Some of the postings threatened the moderator of the forum and our executive director.

Police reports were filed and an account was sent to the FBI. We stand by the Moderator and hope that all you can empathize with her role in this.

This is unacceptable behavior and should not be tolerated by anyone. Unfortunately this was not the only case of incivility. Leagues across the country have faced similar disruptions to their forums. Under the advisement of the LWVUS, the LWVIL chose not to respond to the blogs and articles. We will, however, work with the LWVUS to craft a message as we look forward to the 2012 elections. As Nancy Tate, Executive Director of the LWVUS said, "these attacks represent a concerted attack of our credibility as a trusted, nonpartisan organization-and one which is likely to get stronger in 2012. We intend to push strongly on this."

Looking forward to the 2011 Consolidated Elections in your towns, the LWVIL is working to create guidelines that will help you as you plan for upcoming forums. We cannot prevent occurrences like this from happening but with better preparations perhaps we can respond more effectively.

Our work in Voter Service projects is vital to not only the League but to our communities. We need to continue our Voter Service work as we have done for the last 90 years. If you have and questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marcus, President

Jan Dorner, Vice-president Voter Service

Women's History Month Celebration

Altrusa International Club of Elgin, American Association of University Women, Elgin Community College, Elgin Junior Service Board, Elgin Symphony League, Elgin Woman's Club, League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area, Northern Fox Valley Chapter of Women in Management and YWCA Elgin.

**Invite You to Celebrate Women's History Month
By Attending Our 19th Annual Women's History Month Brunch**

Saturday, March 19, 2011

10:30am Socializing ~ 11:00 - 1:00pm Brunch

Elgin Community College ~ Business Center Dining Room

Cost: \$15.00



**“Nellie Bly: Daredevil Reporter”
Presented By: Lynn Rymarz**

For Nellie Bly, newspaper reporter, nothing was too daring or impossible if she could get a great headlining story. Hear about her life lessons and some of her stories, such as how she got herself committed to an insane asylum, was arrested, danced as a chorus girl, rode an elephant and raced around the world in a record breaking time.



Reservations can be made by calling the YWCA Elgin at 847.742.7930 or
by mail: YWCA Elgin, 220 E. Chicago St., Elgin, IL 60120

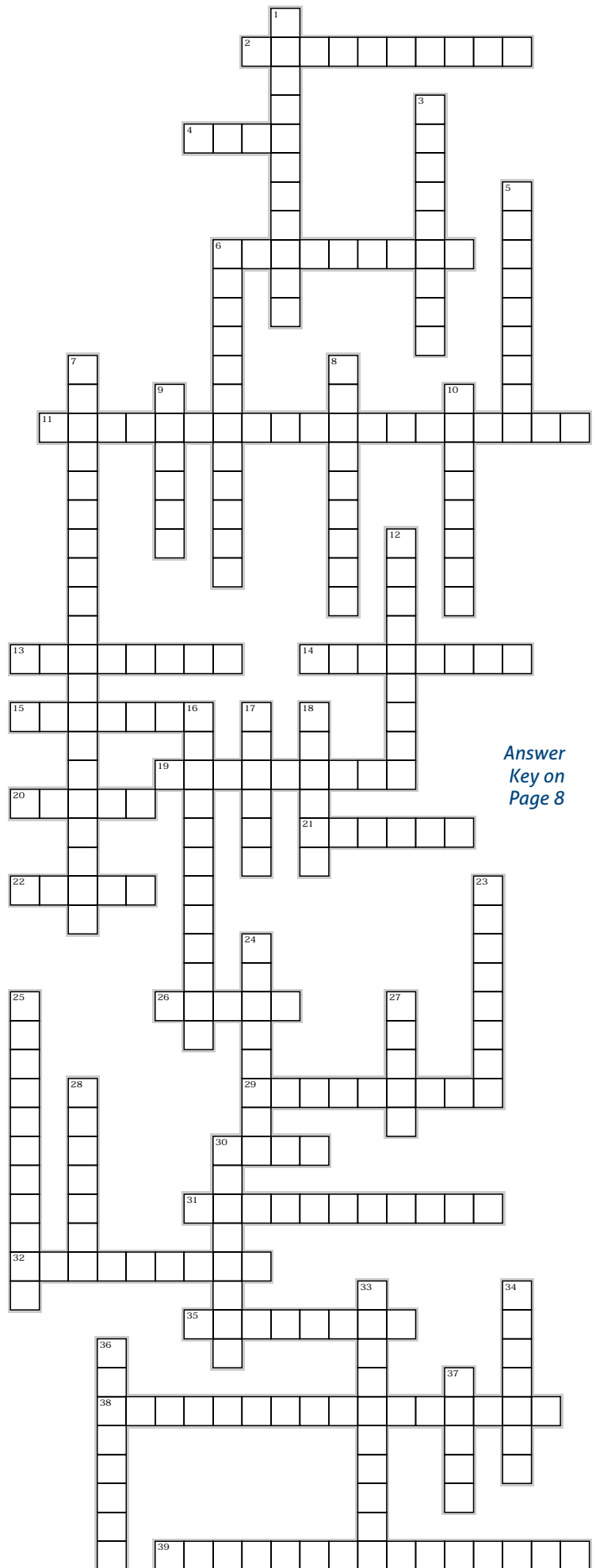
Reservation Deadline: Tues., March 15, 2011 • Please make checks payable to YWCA Elgin

For further information, please feel free to contact the YWCA Elgin 847.742.7930

In League Crossword

Across

2. process of social influence in which one person can enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task
4. title of film LWVEA presented last month in conjunction with ECCO & Issak Walton League
6. leads and speaks for the League, empowers and trains League leaders, among other tasks
11. encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy
13. Women—and men (since 1974)—who are _____ and at least 18 years old may join the League as voting members.
14. is a process by which groups of people make collective decisions
15. The LWVUS public policy positions are the official statements of position for each _____ area
19. the power that somebody has to affect other people's thinking or actions by means of argument
20. The 501(c)3 organization of the League through which voter information and citizen education activities are carried out at the national level
21. formal method of interactive and representational argument
22. The League of Women Voters is organized to parallel the three levels of government, one of which is _____.
26. The League of Women Voters is organized to parallel the three levels of government, one of which is _____.
29. 2011 Women's History Month Celebration topic
30. spoke at LWVEA Holiday Dinner
31. agreement or union in opinion, design or action
32. The term for non-voting membership in the League available for younger people and non-citizens
35. membership understanding and agreement on a particular public policy issue
38. the administrative and policymaking team for the League
39. Seven will be conducted in March



Answer
Key on
Page 8

Continued on page 7



At League Booth at Dakota State Fair (approx. 1924)

Images courtesy LWWUS website



Wellesley League of Women Voters "Ask It" Wagon. October 1948

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Down

1. Year-round League efforts to obtain financial support for projects and general operations
3. member agreement on an issue
5. person running for office
6. A joint project with Elgin YWCA will educate women interested in
7. one of the most important tenets of the League; the national League is responsible for determining strategies and action policies that ensure that the League's message on national issues is consistent throughout the country.
8. A group of people living in the same locality and under the same government. The district or locality in which such a group lives.
9. a financial planning instrument that reflects the goals, priorities and activities planned for the year
10. an attempt to influence specific legislation, both legislation that has already been introduced in a legislative body and specific legislative proposals that the League or others may either oppose or support.
12. a person or group of persons elected or appointed to perform some service or function, as to investigate, report on, or act upon a particular matter.
16. Topic of study for LWVEA
17. fundamental rules drawn up by organizations to govern their internal affairs and their dealings with members and others.
18. points to be discussed
23. active verbal support for a cause or position
24. The League of Women Voters is organized to parallel the three levels of government, one of which is _____.
25. not belonging to, supporting, or biased in favor of a political party
27. Name of the League newsletter
28. the League's most valuable asset
30. when members at an annual meeting or by state/national convention delegates formally take on an issue for study
33. The particular group of people, the administrative bureaucracy, who control a state at a given time
34. The current election system for Elgin city council
36. fair and impartial
37. Program phase during which members examine the facts and key pro/con points.



Know Your Elections Calendar

Crossword Key

Last day to Register to Vote

- Tues., Jan. 25 2011

Grace Period Registration

- Wed, Jan. 26 through Tue., Feb. 15 2011

Note: guidelines limit when and where grace period registrants can vote during this period.

Early Voting Period

- Mon., Jan. 31 through Thurs., Feb. 17, 2011

Absentee Voting Period

- Thurs, Jan. 13 through Thurs., Feb. 17, 2011

Consolidated Primary Election

- Tue., Feb. 22, 2011

Last day to Register to Vote

- Tues., March 8, 2011

Grace Period Registration

- Wed, March 9 through Tue., March 29, 2011

Note: guidelines limit when and where grace period registrants can vote during this period.

Early Voting Period

- Mon., March 14 through Thurs., March 31, 2011

Absentee Voting Period

- Friday, March 11 through Thurs., March 31, 2011

Consolidated Election

- Tue., April 5, 2011

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- 1D: LEADERSHIP
- 2: LEADERSHIP
- 3: CONSENT
- 4: FUEL
- 5: CANDIDATE
- 6: PRESIDENT
- 7: SUPREMACY
- 8: CONSTITUTION
- 9: BUDGET
- 10: VOTERS
- 11: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
- 12: COMMITMENT
- 13: CITIZENS
- 14: POLITICS
- 15: PROGRAM
- 16: BUDGET
- 17: BUDGET
- 18: TARGET
- 19: INFLENCE
- 20: WVEF
- 21: DEBATE
- 22: LOCAL
- 23: ADVOCACY
- 24: NATIONAL
- 25: NONPROFIT
- 26: STATE
- 27: VOTER
- 28: MEMBERSHIP
- 29: NELLIE BLY
- 30: ALFT
- 31: CONCURRENCE
- 32: ASSOCIATE
- 33: POSITION
- 34: ATTORNEY
- 35: POSITION
- 36: UNION
- 37: SALT
- 38: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- 39: CANDIDATE FORUMS

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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 and \$90 for each additional member at the same address. \$30 student membership. Please send this coupon with your payment payable to:
LWVEA, 569 Franklin Blvd., Elgin, IL. 60120

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**The Elgin Area League thanks our
2010-2011 Patrons for their support**



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