



Area

VOTER



February 2011

President's Corner

Sigi Psimenos

It certainly doesn't look like we're welcoming Spring in like a lamb-we've had a whirlwind of the month! We've hosted five, yes five, **Candidate Forums** to date and have two left to go. A special thank you to our volunteers at these most educational forums. Our **Brunner/Gravel Study Group**, Chaired by **Carol Grom** (see picture, "Update on Brunner Forest Preserve/Gravel Mining Study" on page 6), is winding down just as our **Elgin City Council Study Group**, Chaired by **Wendy Covich**, is gearing up to start, and the **Mental Health Committee**, Chaired by **Myra Becker**, is getting ready to report.

Women's History Month Brunch-Nellie Bly was simply spectacular! Thank you **Janet Poyner**, for Chairing this year's event. Despite her numerous health issues, she did a remarkable job with her fellow organizers rallying to the fore (see picture). We'd like to thank our major partners at AAUW, ALTRUSA, YWCA Elgin, and the Elgin Symphony for a remarkable venue. We'll have more on this subject in next month's Voter.

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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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John Bordsen, Wendy Covich, Janet Poyner, Dennis Schwank & myself were but some of those involved on various **Elgin's Sustainable Master Planning Committees** whose 2-year work has culminated in a draft being presented to Elgin's City Council. **Donna Askins**, our resident weeder/gardener, is forging ahead growing new gardens for **Elgin Community Garden Network**, and **Sandy Kaptain** remains clear in her vision in **educating us about climate change**. **Anne Schneck** and her troupe continue to monitor the **KC bike trails** for us. Thank you all!

In preparation for our **Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner** on April 28th at the Tyler Towers Clubhouse, we've included in this Voter all the necessary agenda items that you'll be asked to vote on. The **Nominating Slate of Candidates**, prepared by Committee Chair **Karen Maki**, the **Proposed 2011-2012 Budget**, prepared by Committee Chair **Dennis Schwank**, and the **Proposed 2011-2012 Program Planning**, prepared by Committee Chair **Myra Becker**. We'd like to thank you each of you, and your committee members, for all the time & effort you put forth! An outstanding job one and all!

You'll notice we didn't increase the dues for the upcoming year inasmuch as we had increased them last year-something this league had not done in 10 years. However, we'd like for you to consider the following: by the time we pay your membership national & state dues, we're only left with \$3.50 per member. Our programs are all worthy-but they do all cost- consider our September/October 4-part



Women's History Month: Julia McClendon, YWCA Elgin & 2012 Chair, Julie Jindra Altrusa, YWCA Elgin, LWV; Dodi Williams, Elgin Symphony League, LWV; Babara Evans AAUW, LWV; Rachel Campbell, AAUW; Kay Gamble, LWV, and Janet Poyner, 2011 Chair, LWV, Altrusa and Elgin Symphony League.

program where we're partnering with the YWCA teaching "**How to Run for Public Office**". While many of you generously contribute extra funds, for which we are truly grateful, we would like to offer all of you a **challenge.....bring in ONE local ad to the Voter**. It could be a business, organization, family inscription, or the like. One business card sized ad for an entire year for the cost of \$25. (We'd love for you to bring them to the **Annual Meeting**.) We're also looking at fund raising this year. Not your normal cake sale...we may possibly do a **Carnivale Carnival** and partner with other local organizations who also have financial constraints.

As you can see, there's something for everyone. If you have a passion and it's within league guidelines, we ask you to let us know and follow it. See you at the **Annual Meeting!**

In league,
Sigi

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

League Committee Members are needed for the **Elgin City Council Study**. Contact **Wendy Covich** at w.covich@dla-ltd.com

Greeters, Timers, Ushers, Question Screeners, and Exterior Monitors are needed for the **Candidate Forums** at the Gail Borden Public Library for Sunday @ 1:30 PM on March 20th, and at 6PM on Thursday- March 24th & Tuesday -March 29th. Contact **Sigi Psimenos** at sigiusa@yahoo.com

Would you like to serve on the **Community Garden Network Committee?** If so, please contact **Donna Askins** at donna.askins@gmail.com or 815.751.2799.

Notes on the Budget Proposed for 2011 - 2012

Cheerfully submitted, Dennis M. Schwank, Treasurer LWVEA

Per our by-laws, this Voter includes the **budget for LWVEA for 2011 - 2012** (page 7), as approved by our board, to be voted on at our **Annual Meeting** on April 28.

As most of you will agree, budgets are, with any luck, educated estimates of how much money will be available and how much will be needed. Some revenue is relatively fixed (dues per member, for example) and some is totally variable. Contributions and specific fund-raising projects are examples of the latter. We earn about \$650 for each election from Kane County. This fiscal year we 'volunteered' during two; next FY there will be only one, so we can count on half the revenue.

In 2010 - 2011, individual contributions were much higher than in previous years, suggesting to the budget committee that we may be able to count on such support again. Another dues increase was discussed and rejected.

Here's the gist of the situation: For each individual member who pays \$60 in dues we must send a PMP (per member payment) to LWVIL of \$27 and to LWVUS of \$29.50. That leaves \$3.50 of each member's dues to support our entire operation and programming for the year. Before the 33% dues increase effective for the current year, we were collecting less in dues that we were paying out!

We have stopped the bleeding, but we still need more revenue to make it all work. So, special fund-raising has been proposed: A campaign involving the membership—each member brings in one ad for the newsletter, at least at the \$25 level. More discussion on this topic at the Annual Meeting. A second and bigger potential revenue source—co-sponsor a carnival to bring in at least \$1125. If this idea flies, you may hear more about it even before the Annual Meeting.

Both the ad campaign and the carnival would replace lots of bake-sale pies. Nobody wants a bake-sale anyway. And the alternative ideas are low-calorie and non-fattening!

Upcoming Events

Thu Mar 24, 2011

6 pm Candidate Forum Elgin Mayoral & GBPL Board Trustees
Where: GBPL

Tue Mar 29, 2011

6 pm Candidate Forum, Elgin City Council
Where: GBPL

Sat Apr 2, 2011

1:30 pm Mental Health Committee Report to membership
Where: Myra Becker's home

Tue Apr 5, 2011

General Election

Thu Apr 28, 2011

6 pm 2011 Annual Meeting & Pot Luck
Where: Tyler Towers Clubhouse

Fri Apr 29, 2011

12 noon LWVIL State Of The State Luncheon

Fri Jun 10 - Sun Jun 12, 2011

LWVIL State Convention

Where: Holiday Inn North Shore, Skokie, Illinois

Sat Sep 17, Sep 24, Oct 1, & Oct 15, 2011

Joint Program: How to Run for Public Office
Where: Elgin YWCA

LWV of the Elgin Area- Annual Meeting 2011 Proposed Local Programs 2011-2012

- What is the best system for electing members of the Elgin City Council.
- Continue to monitor and to participate in Elgin's efforts to become a sustainable community via the City of Elgin's Sustainable Master Planning Committees (ESMP) and the Elgin Community Garden Network.
- Conduct training workshop on "Running for Public Office" in conjunction with the Elgin YWCA.
- Continue to monitor selected mental health issues outlined in the 2007 LWV Kane Countywide Study.
- Study potential gravel mining on the Brunner Property, Kane County Forest Preserve.



Adopt National Study-2011

LWV US Study Of The Role Of The Federal Government In Public Education

PROPOSAL: To study the role of the federal government in public education, with a focus on (1) the basic goals of public education, (2) the role of the federal government in education policy-making, (3) the relationship between national, state, and local levels of education governance, including funding, and (4) the development of common standards.

PURPOSE: To establish national League positions that would enable the League of Women Voters to

- review, consider, evaluate and advocate for or against federal education legislation;
- to advocate on issues related to what the federal role in public education should be;
- and to join in coalition with other national organizations that speak out on issues of public education.



To : Sigi Psimenos, President, LWV-Elgin Area

Board Members, LWV-Elgin Area

From : Nominating Committee

Date : March 16, 2011

The Nominating Committee is pleased to put forth this slate of candidates for the LWV of the Elgin Area:

Office	Name	Term	<i>Replaces or...</i>
1 st Vice President	Wendy Covich	2011-2013	<i>Janet Poyner</i>
Secretary	John Bordsen	2011-2013	<i>Retains position</i>
Board Member, elected	Janet Poyner	2011-2013	<i>Sandy Kaptain</i>
Board Member, elected	Kaye Gamble	2011-2013	<i>Donna Askins</i>
Board Member, elected	Diane Robertson	2011-2012	<i>Wendy Covich</i>
Board Member, elected	Carol Grom	2011-2013	<i>New 6th member</i>

Nominating Committee, 2011-2012

Roberta Nauman, chair

Donna Askins

Board Appointee

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Maki

Roberta Nauman

Loni Mecum

Mental Health Committee Presentation

Darlene Bakk

The League of Women Voters of **Elgin's Mental Health Committee** will be presenting their findings on the work they accomplished throughout the year on nursing homes and persons with mental illnesses who reside there. Previously, the Elgin committee worked with other area Kane-county wide leagues to study the state of care, hospitalization, and housing targeting two groups: adults with serious mental illnesses and persons with developmental disabilities. After the study's completion and League consensus, the group chose to examine and take action on one of the study's outcomes concentrating on housing for persons with mental illness and developmental disabilities. The complete Profile of Community Services 2007 is located on the League's website. This past year, the **Elgin MH committee members** decided to continue investigating housing alternatives--specifically nursing homes.

We invite you to join us and listen to the committee members summarize the three nursing homes visited. There will also be some historical background given, the reason behind this activity, and the future activities the mental health committee is tentatively planning for the next program year. (We'd love suggestions!) Bring a friend and enjoy some refreshments. Thanks to committee members: **Janet Poyner, Kim Haag, Sandy Kaptain, Mark McGinnis, Betsy Thrasher, Ann Schneck, and Phyllis Grzywinski.** **Darlene Bakk and Myra Becker** served as co-chairs.

When: Sunday, April 2, 2011

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m

Where: Myra Becker's

Update on Brunner Forest Preserve/Gravel Mining Study

Carol Grom

The **Brunner/Gravel Mining Study Group**, which organized in response to local coverage of the controversy surrounding the idea of mining gravel from Brunner Forest Preserve, held a public meeting on March 21st at the West Dundee Public Safety Center #2.

More than 60 people heard presentations by Kane County Forest Preserve President John Hoscheit, Dundee Township Supervisor Sue Harney, and Brook McDonald, President of The Conservation Foundation.

A question and answer period followed the panel discussion of the current status of the issue, development policy, and the Open Space referendum on the April 5th ballot. More information on the referendum can be found at www.kaneforest.com

Carol Grom (LWVEA Committee Chair), Brook MacDonald (Pres/CEO Conservation Foundation), Sue Harney (Dundee Township Supervisor), and John Hoscheit (KC Forest Preserve President)



PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2011 - 2012
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE ELGIN AREA

* ANTICIPATED

ACCT NBR	ACCOUNT TITLE	2010 - 2011 ACTUAL	PROPOSED 2011 - 2012	NOTES
	4XXX REVENUE			
4000	MEMBERSHIP DUES			
4010	INDIVIDUAL (2011-2012 56 @ \$60)	3360	3360	Member count is per LWVUS website a/o 01-31-2011. Figures assume no increase or decrease; who knows?
4020	HOUSEHOLD (" 12 @ \$90)	1080	1080	
4030	STUDENT (" 1 @ \$30)	30	30	
4100	CONTRIBUTIONS			
4110	INDIVIDUALS--CASH	375	400	
4120	INDIVIDUALS--IN-KIND	200	200	
4150	OTHER IN-KIND	50	50	In exchange for Elgin Super Print newsletter ad
4200	FUNDRAISING			
4210	ELECTIONS	* 1300	650	Spring elections may bring in \$620, else reduce by that.
4220	HOLIDAY DINNER	1190	1190	Let's go with same amount
4230	TOGETHER WE'RE ELGIN	220	0	
4235	PHONATHON (LWVIL)	69	0	
4240	CARNIVAL	N/A	1125	
4290	OTHER	N/A	50	
4800	NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENTS	425	500	New strategy for getting ads
4900	INTEREST EARNED	* 9	12	8.51 a/o 02-28-2011
	T O T A L	7623	8587	
	6XXX-7XXX EXPENSES			
6000	OPERATING COSTS			
6100	ADMINISTRATIVE			
6110	PRESIDENT	* 20	20	ANNUAL MEETING
6120	TREASURER	0	0	
6200	COMMITTEES			
6210	MEMBERSHIP	0	50	
6220	HOLIDAY DINNER	1091	1090	anticipate same scenario
6250	PROGRAMS/STUDIES	36	500	
6270	LWVEAYWCA: RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE	N/A	200	
6295	MISCELLANEOUS		0	
6500	OTHER OPERATING			
6510	NEWSLETTER			
6512	PRINTING	140	150	
6514	POSTAGE	* 25	50	

27 March 2011

ACCT NBR	ACCOUNT TITLE	2010 - 2011 ACTUAL	PROPOSED 2011 - 2012	NOTES
6530	WEBSITE	200	200	
6570	OTHER PUBLICATIONS	0	0	
6580	FUNDRAISING EXPENSE	105	300	
6590	ROOM RENTAL	120	120	
6700	INSURANCE	95	95	
6800	ANNUAL AUDIT	0	0	
6900	MISCELLANEOUS	0	25	
7000	PARTICIPATION & FINANCIAL SUPPORT			
7200	VOTER SERVICE RELATED ACTIVITIES			
7210	VOTER REGISTRATION	0	0	
7230	CANDIDATE FORUMS	530	200	One forum (Spring primary only)
7235	CANDIDATE FORUMS - DUNDEE & RUTLAND TOWNSHIPS	N/A	N/A	Not yet part of the LWVEA budget process.
7250	VOTER GUIDE	0	0	Online
7255	VOTER GUIDE - DUNDEE & RUTLAND TOWNSHIPS	N/A	N/A	Online & not yet part of the LWVEA budget process
7260	MOCK ELECTIONS	25	0	
7290	MISCELLANEOUS	31	50	
7500	CONVENTIONS & WORKSHOPS			
7510	STATE CONVENTION	0	1000	Funding alternates since conventions are held every other year and alternate.
7520	NATIONAL CONVENTION	1000	0	
7550	WORKSHOPS	0	350	Due to overages for other budget categories earlier in budget year, workshop attendance fees were not funded even though allocated.
7700	ORGANIZATIONAL OBLIGATIONS			
7710	LWVIL NOTE 1	2362.50	2011.50	Using actual count for each year and same PMP rates.
7730	LWVUS NOTE 1	2019.60	2175.40	One or the other PMP will likely increase next year.
7780	LAKE MICHIGAN INTERLEAGUE	0	0	
	TOTAL	7650.10	8587	Rounded up to nearest dollar

LWVEA HAS \$130 IN THE LWVIL EDUCATION FUND AS OF 03-31-2011.

THE NEW BUDGET YEAR BEGINS MAY 1, 2011.

DUNDEE / RUTLAND TOWNSHIP VOTER SERVICES ACCOUNT BALANCE IS \$ 1563.67 AS OF 02-28-2011

NOTE 1: Actual count is based on info we gave LWVUS by 01-31 of the year prior to budget year. 2009-2010 counts were 69 individuals, 12 households and 1 student, plus no PMP for 2 national members and 3 honorary. For 2011-2012 the counts will be 56, 12 and 1 plus 2? and 4. Hence, the anticipated PMPs due are lower for the new year.

PMP rates: LWVIL: Individuals \$27@, households \$40.50 @ & students \$14.50 @. LWVUS: (same categories) \$29.50, \$43.80 & \$14.60, respectively.

27 March 2011



How to Run for Office: a Woman's Focus

Are you interested in becoming a civic leader? Let us help you.

The YWCA Elgin and the League of Women Voters of Elgin/Carpentersville are offering a four week workshop that will help participants understand the process of becoming a civic leader and how to achieve this goal.

September 17, 2011 • September 24, 2011 • October 1, 2011 • October 15, 2011

Nuts and Bolts of Running for Public Office • Building Your Leadership Team • Fundraising Activities • Mobilize to Win Election Day

9:00am - 12:00pm

YWCA Elgin, 220 E. Chicago St., Elgin, IL 60120

Registration Fee: \$120.00 after July 1, 2011



Act Now! - Early Bird Registration: \$90.00 (deadline: July 1, 2011)



For more information or to register visit ywcaelgin.org or call the YWCA Elgin at 847.742.7930

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Fax: (224) 629-4827
Website: steffenlaw.net

shales mcnuttt construction

Jack Shales

jackshales@shalesmcnuttt.com (847) 989 7470 cell

425 Renner Drive P (847) 622 1214 shalesmcnuttt.com
Elgin, Illinois 60123 F (847) 622 1224

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**



League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area
1450 Plymouth Lane
Elgin IL 60123